

January 5, 2007

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street
Herschler Building, Room 1714
Cheyenne WY 82008

Rec'd
1-18-07

Dear Sirs:

“What works for a rancher or farmer in Sheridan County may not work for a Campbell County landowner. “

In the past six years I have had a lot of experience with Coal Bed Natural Gas development on my 3500 deeded acres 500 of which is irrigated and I lease 1500 acres from the State of Wyoming. All development is complete and I am pleased to report that it was less disruptive that I had anticipated.

Three companies, Fidelity, J.M. Huber and Pennaco/Marathon, are now producing, transporting, and selling CBNG from my land. Because of the unknown effects of the water being produced and used on pastures and crop lands, originally I had elected to have all the water removed from my property to my neighbors property who were more than willing to put it to use growing hay for their cattle.

My lands have water rights that date back to 1884 and enough stored (high mountain) water to survive almost any drought condition. My neighbors are not as fortunate and rely heavily on this produced water. Their adjudicated water rights are about 1/16th of my water right and they need this produced water to survive.

Having seen how well these three companies managed this water, I have to ask to have it put to use on my own ranch.

A seventy acre pivot was erected on a pasture of mine and Pennaco began putting water on this last summer. The drought conditions at that time were the worst I had ever seen in the thirty plus years on this ranch. No rain from May 15th to September 15th. This water was a welcome sight and immediately began to grow green grass. Another issue from the drought was the lack of stock water. My reservoirs completely evaporated and the situation became so serious that it looked like I would have to sell fifty percent of my two hundred and fifty cow herd.

Fidelity, J.M. Huber and Pennaco/Marathon all put stock tanks in areas that better distributed my cattle than any thing I had had prior to development. With these stock tanks in remote locations throughout my pastures the grass actually improved because the cattle were more evenly dispersed.

I find these companies to be responsible and reliable in working with landowners on these important water issues.

Please do not place additional restrictions on the way they handle this water. The country needs the gas and landowners appreciate the water.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Tom Koltiska
Hat Curved Arrow Ranch