

January 26, 2006

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Re: Wyoming water quality rules

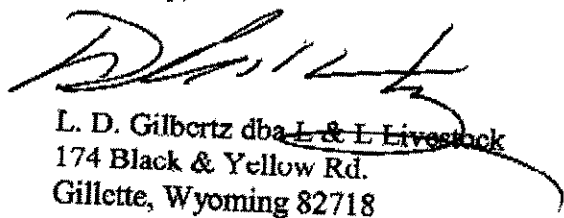
Dear Mr. Gordon,

It has come to my attention through a meeting that was held in Gillette, Wyoming on Thursday January 25, 2007 that the EQC is going to rule on a petition concerning discharge of produced Coal Bed Methane (CBM) water. I am a third generation rancher south of Gillette with extensive CBM development on my place and I am also the Land Department Supervisor for Yates Petroleum Corporation. This has put me in a unique position to have extensive working knowledge from both sides of the fence.

This petition is alarming to me for various reasons as a rancher; the water discharge on my ranch has enhanced the ability of my cattle to more efficiently graze my pastures and provide additional water for the numerous types of wildlife that inhabit it. When prudent Operators and informed Landowners come together at the table solutions that are beneficial to both parties are the result. It is unfortunate that this is not always the case but why should all of the ranches that have benefited from this additional water be put at the mercy of a few that have had or are experiencing negative impacts from the produced water. I sympathize with these ranchers and their inability to come to a mutual agreement with the Operator(s) or have inimitable circumstances but I would hope that our judicial system would be a better place to resolve these types of disputes.

It is my understanding that the change in Barium Standard will only apply to CBM water and that the current drinking water standards are 10 times less stringent than what is proposed for CBM discharge, so why are the people allowed to drink it, wash their clothes, water their lawns, and any other number of uses. If a family living in Gillette can put water with these types of barium limits on the ground what is the logic for a different standard for CBM water?

Sincerely,


L. D. Gilbertz dba L & L Livestock
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Gillette, Wyoming 82718