

January 29, 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon  
Chairman  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
122 W 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
Herschler Bldg., R. 1714  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**FILED**

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – Powder River Basin Resource Council et al –  
Revised Version – WQD Chapter 2

Dear Mr. Gordon:

My name is Leonard Payne and I am the owner of Sinks Canyon Consulting LLC, located in Lander, Wyoming. Today, I was made aware of the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – Powder River Basin Resource Council et al – Revised Version – WQD Chapter 2 and find that I must state my opposition to same. As the CBM (Coalbed Methane) industry is the sole source of my company business and income, I am opposed to the restrictions that would be imposed by this petition. If the provisions of this petition are approved, CBM production may well cease, or be severely curtailed, and my business and income will cease as well.

In my opinion, if approved, the impact on the State of Wyoming will be severe and long lasting. Consider the percentage of the population of the State of Wyoming employed in the oil and gas industry – specifically CBM production. Not only will many lose their source of income, but, the State of Wyoming will suffer with the associated increase in un-employment.

I am opposed to rulemaking that reduces, or eliminates, the discharge and use of CBM produced water. I am opposed to rulemaking that holds different standards for discharge of sub-surface water, regardless of the methods of production.

It is my understanding that the Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed this petition and, as written, will have the effect of prohibiting most, if not all, CBM produced water discharges. It is also my understanding that the Attorney General's office has repeatedly cautioned against this petition and its proposed rule.

I understand that there may be problems with certain individuals and CBM produced discharge. However, these problems need to be dealt with on an issue-by-issue basis, not by blanket changes to policy.

Any rules associated with discharge of sub-surface waters, whatever the method of production, need be well founded on solid scientific (geologic, hydrologic, etc.) principles. I do know that in my work within the CBM industry every effort is made to reduce or eliminate potential adverse effects to the environment and to repair damages that have previously occurred.

Considering the stance of the Attorney General's office, the Department of Environmental Quality; the financial impact upon myself, my associates, and the overall impact this petition would have on the State of Wyoming, I feel I must recommend against this petition.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions,

Thank You



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