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FILED

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

25 January 2007

Environmental Quality Council
Herschler Building, Room 1714
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Kim,

I am writing to voice my concern about coal bed methane water discharges. I believe that it is very important that the DEQ regulate these discharges in a responsible manner. There is a need to impose greater restrictions on the volume and quality of water that can be discharged from CBM wells. Most of the water that is currently discharged is too contaminated to allow for the growth of native vegetation and too abundant to limit erosion. Only water that will actually be used for beneficial purposes should be allowed to be discharged from CBM wells and the industry should be required to reinject the rest underground.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has the legal responsibility and authority to address this issue, since it is causing serious environmental problems in the Powder River Basin, and it is your duty to "prevent, reduce and eliminate pollution" under the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act. To remain blissfully ignorant about the damage that is being caused, assuming that the water is being used in a beneficial manner, is recklessly irresponsible and may result in an unwanted costly law suit.

Please implement the rule change based on the citizen petition which proposes adding a new Appendix I to Chapter 2 of the Water Quality rules that will address CBM produced water discharges. Specifically, the rule change would direct the DEQ to issue discharge permits only for volumes of CBM water that is being actually used. Furthermore, it would also impose effluent limits that are more reasonably expected to be protective of livestock and wildlife ingestion (barium, total dissolved solids (TDS) and sulfates).

Thank you,

Melanie Arnett
Laramie, Wyoming