

PRIME POWER & COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.
&
PPC ELECTRICAL SERVICES
Box 1187 - Powell, Wyoming 82435 - 300 Hastings Horseshoe
Phone # 307-754-4725 - Fax # 307-754-2898
ppc@wir.net

FILED

29 January 2007

JAN 29 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon, chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 E. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg. Room 1714
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Re: **Land Use Petition**

We have been recently advised of the petition regarding surface water discharge and would like to present our comments and concerns as a Wyoming Contractor's business of over 30 years duration. Further, the owner of this business is a Wyoming Native and does look to the future of this State with regards to proper environmental rules and regulations, since none of us wish to see our state become a dumping ground rather than a viable working environment for it's business. We understand the importance of sound environmental laws and regulations to guide business and industry. Not one of us wants to look out of our window and see a simulation of Pittsburgh.

But we also see danger unrelated to sensible environmental policy looming in the petition documents we are reading.

The word "environment" must work both ways in order for a state to thrive. Business "environment" must be considered closely related to "eco environment". *Both sides seem to have lost the basic concept of the need to balance payrolls for the people against the quality of life all of us seek. Without a paycheck in today's world, it is a grim outlook indeed, and we believe that needs to be kept firmly in mind when addressing these kinds of petitions.*

Tax Revenues - I wonder if anyone really appreciates how much tax revenue oil and gas bring to the state for our schools, highways, etc. It's a matter of record that they contribute the lion's share of it, especially to our school systems. *We must balance our priorities.*

The economy of the state is "not" totally dependent upon agriculture, but shares that spotlight with industry as well, such as oil and gas production. We are concerned that the petition addresses only one concept. *One assertion in particular catches the eye immediately upon reading the petition - page 1 - "causing foot rot in cattle". This statement cannot be declared accurate as foot rot is generally associated with highly manured areas and to blame it even in part on water quality is one of the points we could argue as needing forensics before that kind of comment should be considered in a petition to the DEQ.*

Upon reading over the petition, it would seem that much of the complaint is being addressed in the current permitting process, with the exception of the *quantity* which seems to be the main focus. *It would seem that the permitting process itself could be modified on a case-by-case*

basis depending upon "expected use" and then reassessed on "actual use" in a review. This might be accomplished by meters at specific sites.

But the assertion/revision in the petition – page 7 - that "actual use by livestock" must somehow be measured is preposterous. How in the world would you attempt to measure that?

It would seem, also from the documents themselves, that the water quality is currently meeting standards set forth and extreme caution should be used when raising the standards to the tune of 5 – 10 times what they are now. This is hysteria, not management. Throwing the baby out with the bath water seems reckless to us – a stranglehold against business is folly.

Marathon Oil, in particular – and we use this as our example because we have been familiar with some of their landowner projects in the Gillette area – have been good neighbors. When I was in Gillette last, I personally observed blueprints on their walls that looked like huge circles overlapping. The question was mine; and they explained that they were giant irrigation pipe pivots that had been supplied to the landowners at Marathon expense to distribute the recycled waste water in a rain-type application rather than the older ditch and ground pipe irrigation method all of us who were raised here are familiar with. Is that not an improvement? Open ditch lends to evaporation of the precious water, and with regards to "erosion" we have all seen what the open ditch and ground gated pipe method can do in that regard.

In closing, I can't help but wonder how these same landowners would react on another, more stringent "petition for the revocation of multiple use" and/or grazing rights on the National Forests. We in Wyoming are all aware of what has happened there – and not all of it has been good.

We implore of you in our request for representation that common sense be used foremost when coming up with your next plan. We have become a nation of "special interests" rather than moving forward in a rational way.

Sincerely,


Margaret Arross
Clay Miller - owner
Prime Power & Communications, LLC