

**FILED**

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

Environmental Quality Council:

My name is Mark Fichter, and I work for a Roustabout/pipeline company in Gillette Wyoming. Changing the rule about discharging of methane water would be catastrophic to me and my family.

I oppose the citizen petition for Rulemaking-Powder River Basin Resource Council et al-WQD chapter 2. I oppose rulemaking that reduces or eliminates the ability for coalbed produced water to be discharged and thus beneficially used. There are numerous benefits to the water being discharged. For example: Ranchers cattle, livestock, wildlife, ranchers crops that they grow. Its just every rancher that I have talked with about this, say that they love the water from coalbed methane.

If this rule about coalbed methane water be changed, I would have to sell my house, my vehicle, and numerous other things that I have purchases over the last 10 or so years. I just would not be able to afford to live in Gillette no more, and would end up moving my wife and 2 small kids elsewhere. Its sad, but this methane gas is all I know as a career, and a lot of my co-workers this is all they know as a career. I wasn't fortunate like a lot of people to be able to afford to go to college and get an office job. Ive had to work real hard to support my wife and 2 kids, but if this rule is to change I don't really know what I am going to do. Not only would this change effect me and my family, but everyone I know here in Gillette, WY would effect them as well. If gas production is reduced the state of wyoming is going to feel the effect of this rule change as well .

50% of the revinue off of each gas well, goes directly to the state of wyoming.

It is my understanding that DEQ has looked at the petition and that as it is written it will have the effect of prohibiting most, if not all CBM produced water discharges. I oppose setting standards for water discharge for coalbed produced water that are more restrictive than for other discharges. The rule would be arbitrary if adopted as proposed.

By changing this rule, th EQC would not be protecting existing use of CBM water by ranchers, livestock, and wildlife. The ranchers will all suffer if this rule is passed. If CBM water is held to a stricter standard than other discharged water that the rule would not stand up. The Attorney Generals office has repeatedly cautioned against this petition and the rule it

New Text Document

proposes, and that the EQC would be wise to heed their attorney's  
 office, this rule will be struck down as arbitrary and  
 capricious.

In closing I just want to thank you for letting me commen  
 t on this topic, and to voice my opinion. I hope you think about al  
 l of us that depend and rely on the coalbed methane, whether its wat  
 er, or its the money we get from our employers for working in the meth  
 ane fields. All in All there is a lot of us that depend on it, and  
 changing this rule, would probably ruin alot of peoples lives, I  
 know it would ruin mine and my familys. Please feel free to conta  
 ct me at (307)686-5785/home or (307)299-6283/work if you have any  
 questions.

Thanks.

