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Environmental Quality Council

Mr. Mark Gordon
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Building, Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Fax. 307.777.6134

Dear Mr. Gordon:

I am writing this letter to you regarding the petition, submitted by the Powder River Basin Council, to amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, In short, I do not agree the rule should be amended.

The petition is unfair to the landowners who benefit from the CBM discharged waters. It is unfair to the CBM industry, its operators and Wyoming citizens and their families who benefit from the quality jobs.

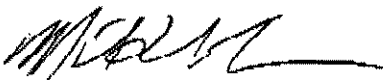
I work surveying reservoirs associated with the CBM industry in the Powder River Basin . I have worked on many ranches in the area and generally speaking the landowners are very interested in having the water for their livestock and or irrigation purposes. Many of the landowners are excited when the water development occurs on their ranches.

The newspapers and other media outlets seldom seem to publish any of the positive aspects of CBM development. I was working on the Floyd ranch along Wild Horse creek and the late Fred Floyd told me their yearling steers were averaging 50 pounds heavier after the development of CBM water on their ranch. He attributed it to his cattle having to trail shorter distances for water. The negative affects of cattle trailing to water can be seen all over the Powder River Basin with trails turning into deeply cut scars from overuse and the accompanying erosion from water and wind.

Many of the areas ranchers feel it is impossible to get a positive word in about the development that has occurred on their ranches. I have been told that Wyoming news outlets are not interested in publishing their stories. It certainly seems that way if you follow the only statewide newspaper in Wyoming. I have heard ranchers talk excitedly about water development on their places where drought and simple economics have kept them from utilizing large portions of their range holdings.

My job in the CBM industry has allowed me to provide for my family, plan for my kids future, and remain in Wyoming as a 5th generation native of this great State, along with providing additional jobs for other Wyoming citizens. I am not alone, thousands are benefiting from well paying jobs, the States coffers are flush with tax dollars providing services, investments, and hope for Wyomings future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,



Mike Lowham
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