

January 27, 2007
1903 West Main Suite #4
Newcastle, WY 82701

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Mr. Mark Gordon
Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W 25th Street
Herschler Bldg, Rm 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Gordon:

We are writing in concern of the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – WQD Chapter 2 Appendix H. We would like to clearly state we are against the rule being adopted, and request the council take into very serious consideration the following impact we can percieve happing as well as countless more problems.

We have a small contract pumping business in Newcastle, Wyoming, which has been our home for 48 years. My husband and I, Sheldon and Loretta Murphy, have owned and operated Shelco and SLM Services since 1986. We employ approximately 15 people and approximately 90% of our business stems from coal bed methane. The proposed petition for rulemaking, as I understand it, will all but shut down coal bed methane development. Due to the strict water quality standards the petition for rulemaking is requesting current production may be shut down as well.

We are opposed to the council enacting a rule for just coal bed methane that would impose higher standards of water quality than is necessary for Coal mining and oil and convention gas wells as well as drinking water. This also is a huge concern as, once this rule is in effect who is to say it will not follow through and shut down oil and conventional gas wells that currently have discharge permits or would utilize them for future production. This may filter down to the countless coal mines in the area and close them down also. The devastating effect this would have on Weston, Campbell, Sheridan, and Johnson Counties would be horrific.

We understand that there are problems with some individuals concerning water discharge and that the DEQ must look into these problems. There are other solutions or options available to correct problems other than imposing such strict rules that you would shut down an entire industry and put countless people and business out of jobs. Please consider the following description of the impact this would have on Wyoming's people when you review the proposed petition and please consider it to be a route that Wyoming is not going to take. Remember we are the Equality State and vote against making this rule.

In our small community the impact this rule would have would put many people out of jobs, cause them to lose their homes or have to relocate. This would in turn cause grocery stores, furniture stores, drug stores etc to be hurt or go broke. The number of banks financing these businesses, houses etc will be directly affected and may fail. This is in a community 70 miles away from the nucleus of the coal bed methane. I would ask you to think of the impact of what this would do in Gillette, Wright and surrounding areas.

Gillette would have many houses available and no one to buy them, huge amounts of broke businesses and displaced families. Think of the tax basis the coal bed provides for the state and Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan Counties. Gillette alone has countless bond projects that have been approved and are in the works. How will these projects be paid for if you shut down coal bed methane because of imposing to strict water standards? Do we consciously want to cause a national disaster in our very own state?

Shel and I alone would have to lay off most of our 15 employecs, turn back the vehicles to the bank and close down our office. What will those families we lay off do. They have young children and homes and vehicles to pay for. There goes our States futurc as Shelco is not the only business that will loose. The financial ramification on our state and our communities will be devastating.

We are not suggesting that the DEQ does not have to monitor and protect our environment we are simply stating that this is not the way in which to solve the problem by prohibiting most water discharge from CBM. I would ask if any of the Council members have visited a landowner and looked at the land wherc coal bed methane water has been used to irrigate their land with sprinkler systems and actually create a green patch of grass for cattle and wild life in a small desert area of a great state.

Please vote no on the Citizens Petition for Rulemaking – WQD Chapter 2 Appendix H.
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Sheldon L. Murphy
President
Shelco



Loretta A. Murphy
Vice President
Shelco