

January 26, 2007

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

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – WQD Chapter 2 - PRBRC

Dear Mr. Gordon and those concerned for Wyoming's economy,

My name is Robin Popp. I have been with Marathon Oil Corporation for the past six years. I am proud work with a company who cares about our safety, environment, and welfare of their employees.

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my concern of what will happen to our Ranchers, State, Counties, Cities, and Families of Wyoming if WQD Chapter 2 revision is to pass in its current language.

If this ruling passes, it will bring Coalbed Methane (CBM) to a halt and the ramifications of that will be devastating. The ruling will make it impossible for producers to make a profit considering the cost of alternative water disposal. We all are all in business to make a profit. It would shut down many businesses contracted by the CBM industry.

The majority of the Ranchers rely heavily on the water that is from CBM operations for their cattle and irrigation for their feed. In the current drought we are in, they would have to resort to purchasing feed at much higher prices. The weight of their cattle will lower which could put some Ranchers out of business.

The effect to the State and Counties would be dramatic due to loss in royalties and taxes. The people who work in the CBM industry will be displaced and unable to find gainful employment in State, resulting in higher rates of unemployment or loss of population (another bust).

The City of Gillette, Sheridan, Buffalo, and surrounding towns will see economic ruin. Unable to find jobs, most of those displaced by this ruling will have to file bankruptcy. Housing is at an all time high now, but if CBM goes away, it will plummet as well as the tax revenue. Companies will move out to fuel friendlier States. Consider all the new housing, who will purchase these home? Banks will be extended.

This ruling will devastate families that work hard and contribute to our community. Many will move, depending on the timing and will not be able to sell their home, if they do, it would be at a loss. Many will have to resort to bankruptcy. The higher wages for people in the Non-CBM Industry, created primarily by the CBM Industry, will drop drastically up to half their wages. Many businesses would revert to the minimum wage due to the lack of patronage.

I just do not understand how a privileged few is able to bring this petition up for a ruling. The only ramification to the Petitioners would be lack of water. As I understand it, it is not what is in the water that causes damages. The damage comes from the sodium in the soil. Large amounts of rain and snow would have the same result on the land.

Another issue I do not understand is why this restriction on water disposal is just for CBM and not others who produce and dispose water such as the coalmines and conventional oil. I see this as a way to drive out the CBM industry. We need to be less dependent on foreign oil. President Bush wants us to look for alternative and Methane is just that and is cleaner fuel source.

In closing, I want to thank you for your time and I hope you will seriously consider the ramifications of this petition and rule against it for the sake of Wyoming and its citizens.

Sincerely,



Robin Popp
Supply Chain Assistant
Marathon Oil Corporation
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Gillette, WY 82718
307-685-5113

CC:

Senator Enzi
Governor Freudenthal
Governor's Coalbed Task Force