

To: Mark Gordon, Chairman

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W 25th St.
Herschler Bldg. Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

From: Roy E Knutson, Jr & Debbie Knutson
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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

To Whom It May Concern,

After reviewing the petition to amend Wyoming Water Quality, we have some concerns regarding the effects of the petition as presented by the Powder River Resource Council.

We feel that we have an unbiased opinion on this matter as we are involved in the methane from both sides of the issue. We are contractors to many of the methane companies in Campbell County and we also have a ranch that is greatly affected by the methane activity. We are able to see the issue from both sides and have great concerns about the effects of the petition that the Council has submitted.

There are four different methane companies that have drilled and produced wells on our land and we have yet to see any erosion or salt buildup in our soils. Some of the wells on our land have been in production for 7-8 years. The water is discharged down the draws to reservoirs. It benefits our ranching program tremendously due to the increase in stock water and the lush grass that grows in the bottoms of the draws. In some of our pastures, we could use even more methane water.

We have numerous rubber tire tanks that the methane companies have installed for stock use. The overflow from these tanks goes directly into a reservoir which allows us to not have to check water every day. The increase in deer and antelope that we have seen on our ranch in the last few years is due largely the increase in water availability.

We are also one of numerous vendors/contractors in the methane industry that employ many people (who are very concerned about their jobs and future for their families). The methane industry as a whole has been very gracious to a lot of people and the State of Wyoming.

The methane industry has more of a positive versus negative affect on the residents and landowners in Wyoming, so we need to be very careful not to cause the states economy and lively hood to be brought to a halt, while entertaining the misdirected ideas of a few disgruntled landowners.

Our real concern here is that, through knowing the majority of the petitioners, we believe their real issue is not the environmental effects as much as it is a personal agenda against methane companies and their policies relating to past negotiations and settlements.

All in all, we are great advocates of the methane industry and what it has provided to the majority of the ranchers and the workforce in the State of Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Knutson, JR.
Debbie Knutson