

January 29, 2007

**FILED**

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Mr. Mark Gordon  
Chairman, Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Herschler Building, Room 1714  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Fax: (307) 777-6134

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

Dear Mr. Gordon:

I oppose the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – Powder River Basin Resource Council – Petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix H.

Over two year ago, my wife and I were looking for work in Wyoming. I had completed a Project with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe on the Wind River Indian Reservation, and my wife was going to lose her job due to restructuring of the company she was working for. We applied for work in Wyoming because this is where my wife and I received our education and where we wanted to continue to reside. We were seriously considering a move to another state because our job search had almost reached a dead end. About a month before our move I received an offer and a job at Lowham Engineering I.I.C in Lander, Wyoming, a hydrology and natural resources firm.

Now, I am a Project Engineer at Lowham Engineering I.I.C. Lowham Engineering employs approximately 25 people. A large portion of the work we do is channel design, water monitoring, reservoir design, including reservoirs that contain Coal Bed Methane (CBM) water. Some of my work includes following all Federal and State regulations, including the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) standards, for the permitting of reservoirs. Through my work I've found that Lowham Engineering values landowner concerns and relations greatly, and has never left landowners out of the design phase of any project on their property, or any project that could affect the landowner. I've seen many benefits for CBM water for other landowners; Water for livestock, fish ponds and an increase of wildlife, to name a few. The reservoirs make water accessible in times when water would not normally be available.

I disagree greatly with making the CBM discharge water have a Barium discharge level ten times less than our own drinking water. Currently, the Barium level standards for CBM water are better than our drinking water anyway. Why does it need to be ten times better? Passage of this amendment could have a major impact on CBM production in the Powder River Basin, due to an increased operating cost beyond the profitability level, as mentioned in a WDEQ review of the petition. Passage of this amendment could greatly reduce monies that supplement taxes to support schools, libraries, roads, social programs, and eliminate jobs, including most of the people working at Lowham Engineering LLC and a large number of families in the Powder River Basin area.

Yes, I agree with the landowners that we must have high water quality standards to protect people, the environment, wildlife and our way of life, but I believe there are other ways to help landowners than setting water quality standards well beyond drinking water standards, that could shut down an entire industry. I would love to have my two young daughters experience Wyoming the way that I have, and would be greatly saddened if my family and I have to move out of the beautiful State of Wyoming to find work.

Respectfully,



Thomas P. Wilkinson  
Concerned Citizen of Wyoming  
(307) 335-8665