

February 14, 2007
Via Facsimile (307-777-6134) and regular Mail

Mr. Bill DiRienzo
Water Quality Division
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Herschler Building, 4th Floor West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Re: Proposed Section 20, Agricultural Use Protection Policy

Dear Mr. DiRienzo

I respectfully submit for your consideration the following comments regarding the proposed changes to the Section 20, Agricultural Use Protection Policy.

Please use the recommendations from Mr. Harvey's (KC Harvey, LLC) study in the process of decision making for establishing the EC and SAR default limits for end of pipe water quality. Overly restrictive water quality limits have the potential of causing current discharges and future discharges of water to no longer be available for providing water to livestock, wildlife, and for irrigation without additional treatment. The water that is being pumped to the surface from the coal is of better quality in many instances than the water that has been used in the past prior to coal bed natural gas development and the idea of having to possibly treat to meet overly restrictive regulations is a waste of additional resources.

The Water and Waste Advisory Board suggested to WYDEQ that they consider water quality standards based on the Bridger Montana Study. As the Board pointed out this study at Bridger would definitely be more representative of the soils found here in our State vs. the State of California. Please consider the good advice of the Water and Waste Water Advisory Board in your decision making.

The proposed rule seems to be inconsiderate of the property owners that have use for the water and want to continue there right to do so. As proposed Appendix H will interfere with the livelihoods of many land owners who currently rely on the produced water to enhance ranching operations. The proposed idea of building reservoir sites in the drainages that will contain a 50 yr/ 24 hr precipitation event and the produced water is just not reasonable. Many of the areas that land owners would prefer operators build reservoirs would be eliminated as an option because of this rule. The property owners ability to manage the water resource and grazing of there pastures would be significantly impacted by this rule. Please keep in mind the operators and property owners need water management tools they can work with to compliment each other, and this proposed rule is not that tool.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Boyd Abelsohn
