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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

DEQ/Water Quality Division  
Attention: Bill DiRienzo  
Herschler Building - 4W  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**RE: PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**DEQ's Proposed Changes for Chapter 1 of the Water Quality Rules and Regulations**

Dear Mr. DiRienzo:

*I understand that you will be forwarding comments from the public to the Environmental Quality Council. Here are my comments:*

Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to hear ranchers speak whose ranches have sustained damage from the coalbed methane industry, particularly the damage caused by the quality and/or quantity of water being dumped onto their land. It is particularly troublesome to have learned that some of the ranchers are sustaining damage to their property by coalbed methane operations that are upstream, not even originating on their property.

One of the ranchers whose plight particularly touched me is that of Mrs. Bernie Barlow of Gillette. She said she has bottom land that no longer produces grasses that cattle will eat, and she told me that this is the case three years after the worst of the floods of coalbed water hit her downstream ranch.

This is just not right.

It is ironic that here in the Cowboy State, ranchers (of all people) have to fight to maintain their property. All the ranchers are asking for is that adequate and appropriate regulations be in place *and enforced* to assure that the coalbed methane companies conduct themselves in a socially and environmentally responsible manner while they are in operation and *clean up after themselves* when they are through.

We're not talking about mom and pop operations when we're talking about the coalbed methane companies. We are talking about companies that can reasonably be expected to respect the environment and other people's property. The costs associated with this should be considered as standard operating expenses.

**Please, as the EQC considers the Water Quality rule changes, do so with the mindset of protecting our ranchers, our land, our water, our animals, and our grasslands.** I will not elaborate on each specific issue because I'm sure you will receive plenty of other letters itemizing them, but I will comment on one in particular: Please reject the new "Effluent Dependent" water category. If such a category goes into effect, it will just make it easier down the line to lower the standards.

Sincerely,



Irene L. Hause