

Butch & Debbie Knutson  
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February 13, 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
Herschler Building, Room 1714  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Fax # 307-777-6134

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FEB 14 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

Dear Mr. Gordon,

We attended the Landowners, CBM Contractors, CBM Service Providers, CBM Producer Employees meeting held in Gillette on February 13, 2007, and are very concerned about the future rights of landowners and CBM Producers. There were approximately 300-400 people in attendance. The meeting was virtually on CBM water discharge and the new policies that the Powder River Basin Resource Council has submitted.

We, as ranchers in Campbell County, are very concerned about what was presented as far as the "Tale of Two Discharge Permits", the "50 Year/24 Hour Standard" and the "12 Stream Miles discharge down stream".

We negotiated with four different Coalbed Methane Companies in regards to Surface Damage, Access and Water Disposal. We believe the agreement reached between a landowner and a producer should remain just that. "Between the landowner and the producer" as long as the future of the land and the environment remain a top priority.

We see the additional water as a blessing for our total ranching operation. Examples: watering livestock and wildlife, additional grass in lower areas and reservoir water that we never had before. Prior to methane water, some of our pastures required our cows to walk 2 to 3 miles to get a drink and now we have an abundance of water spread throughout the ranch.

We feel like we are excellent stewards of our land, that we worked so hard to acquire. What right does a government agency have to dictate or manipulate water usage on our private property. It is our belief, that as long as the water is produced from our land and stays on our land, it should be our decision as to whether the water goes into a reservoir, stock tank or spread out on the soil for irrigation.

Methane water has been discharged on our land for the past 7-8 years and we have seen nothing but positive effects. If there are some ranchers who do not want methane water discharged on their land, that should be their preference and they do not have to agree to it. However, for the landowners who wish to utilize the methane water, that is also their preference and they can make their own agreement with the producers. No one needs the government telling them what they can or cannot do with their privately owned land.

What would a ranch be without water? No cattle..... No wildlife.....No birds.....No livestock. .... No grass.....No trees. Virtually nothing.

We appreciate your taking the ranchers perspective into consideration in the decision making process.

Sincerely,

*Butch Knutson*  
*Debbie Knutson*

Butch & Debbie Knutson  
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