

February 11, 2007

P.O. Box 7
Torrington, Wyoming 82240**FILED**

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality CouncilDEQ/Water Quality Division
Attn: Bill DiRienzo
Herschler Building 4W
122 W. 25th Street
Cheyenne, Wy. 82002

Ref: CBM Water Discharges

Dear Mr. DiRienzo:

I am writing to request that the EQC require a simpler and stronger agricultural protection policy. I believe it is wrong to force landowners who do not desire it to accept CBM water discharges, discharges which destroy their soil and vegetation. Property owner's rights should be honored and the productivity of their ranches protected.

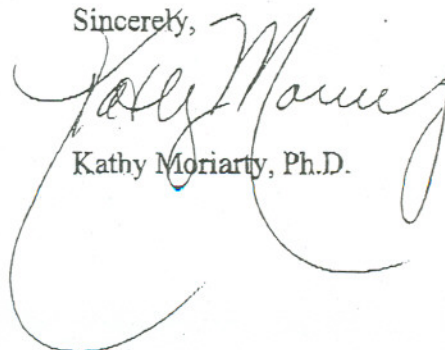
I am also requesting that the EQC include default limits for CBM discharges that do not exceed an EC of 1,300 and SAR of 5 which would ensure protection of soils, grazing lands and irrigated lands. Additionally, the EQC should require protection of all ephemeral drainages and bottomlands, regardless of their size. The grasses in these ephemeral drainages have value for both livestock and wildlife.

The EQC should also require discharge water to meet irrigation water quality at the point of use, and not just at the end of pipe discharge. The EQC should make industry prove they will not harm existing uses as opposed to the rancher/landowner having to prove this. Currently the Ag Protection Policy has a Tier 2 and Tier 3 process in which industry can try and get higher EC and SAR limits. I ask that the EQC not accept this analysis but, instead, require EC and SAR limits that are well published and well known to provide protection for plants and soils.

Finally, the EQC should reject the new "Effluent Dependent" water category proposed by the DEQ. Effluent discharges should not be categorized as an "environmental benefit" which would allow more pollution and damages into the ephemeral drainages.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kathy Moriarty, Ph.D.