

February 13, 2006
Meike Ranch
1916 Sussex Road
Kaycee, WY 82639

FILED

FEB 15 2006

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Environmental Quality Council
Hershler Building 1W
122 W. 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Petition to amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule

Just today it was brought to my attention that the Power River Basin Resource Council has petitioned to amend the Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix H. This amendment would work counter to the efforts of our ranch and the Salt Creek water users by restricting the use of produced water discharged into Salt Creek for livestock and wildlife use. The advantage of produced water discharge into Salt Creek is to dilute the unusable naturally saline water with a water of a higher quality. (Please see a copy of a January 6, 2005 letter to the DEQ addressing our position.)

The petitioners may have a valid complaint but the solution should not be a broad brush regulation that limits the amount of discharge to water that is actually used by livestock or wildlife. Please do not jeopardize the efforts that I and others have been working on for over thirty years.

Sincerely



Don Meike

Sussex Ranch Company LLC

February 13, 2006

Powder River Conservation District

Box 48

Kaycee, WY 82839

Twenty years ago I testified at a DEQ hearing on impaired streams and related the history of the Salt Creek of Powder River. Before 1860 it was often called "Dry Fork" and probably for a good reason as a main route to the gold fields of Montana went up its dry stream bed. After that date and also for a very good reason it was referred to as Salt Creek. This very saline creek was often so salty that neither livestock or wildlife would drink it, and when forced to would often become sick or die. When oil fields began discharging water into the stream, it started to run all year long and became a good source of water for livestock and wildlife. Any attempt by regulatory agencies to suppress the discharge water from oil production will certainly have an adverse affect on the environment. I certainly endorse the efforts of the Conservation District to obtain 319 grant monies to do this very important study.

Sincerely,
Don Meike