

## Legend Rock Resources, Inc.

February 10, 2006

## FILED

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director Environmental Quality Council

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman Environmental Quality Council Herschler Building 1W Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

RE: Powder River Basin Resource Council Petition for Rulemaking, Chapter #2 of the Water Quality Rules.

Dear Mr. Gordon:

I have received information as it pertains to the captioned. Even though our ranch is not located in the Powder River Basin any change to the Water Quality Rules for the State of Wyoming also directly effects our ranch and livelihood.

I continue to be disappointed that your agency would propose or consider regulations that will have significant short and long term effect on, not only the oil producer, but also the ranches and game animals in the effected areas.

We are the owners of a cattle ranch in the immediate area of Cottonwood Creek and the Hamilton Dome Oil Field. The discharge of the treater water from the Hamilton Dome Oil Field has been ongoing for at least twenty years that I know of with no adverse effect on the animals or fish that use the water from Cottonwood Creek. I know the State of Wyoming water quality personnel check the treater water on a regular basis and have found it to be safe for the animals that utilize this most important resource.

We pasture 350 mother cows and calves within the Hamilton Dome pasture during the winter months and without the treater water from the Hamilton Dome Oil Field there would be no water in Cottonwood Creek as it is usually dry by late fall. By putting this water into Cottonwood Creek, the Creek stays open year around and furnishes this valuable resource not only to our cattle but also the neighboring ranchers livestock and the abundant deer, antelope, water fowl and game birds in this immediate area.

The water that is discharged by the various oil companies within Wyoming has been treated and is good water for irrigation and use by livestock and game animals and birds. We have heard that there are some aquatic life that cannot live in the water, however, I doubt that they can live in sand either since that is all that would be left in some areas if it was not for the treater water.

No one realizes the importance of water in Wyoming more than the ranches located along the tributaries that are feed by the various treater water facilities. Any water in Wyoming is much too valuable for any special interest group to stop the beneficial use of this water.





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Any restriction on industry that complies with the existing laws of the State would be very unfair. Each situation needs to be looked at as to its merits to the surrounding area and not just one aspect, i.e. aquatic life. These areas of Wyoming can certainly do without aquatic life before it can afford to loose the use of this water for domestic livestock, wildlife and small game in the given areas.

Our ranch and neighboring ranches, are dependent on this water discharge in an attempt to maintain a profitable ranch and any interference to change this type of discharge is not acceptable.

Each individual situation should be reviewed and the determination made on the overall value of the water not just for one phase of such use or to make changes to satisfy a group of people not affected by the loss of this treater water or water discharged from the CBM wells.

It is also pointed out that rules requiring oil companies to reinject the water back into the ground would make many of the operations uneconomical and force the oil companies to abandoned the field. This certainly is not to the best interest of the people of Wyoming or the nation in a time of oil and gas shortages and dependance on foreign oil.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Wagner

President

John Corra, WDEQ John Wagner, WDEQ Todd Parfitt, WDEQ Office of the Governor