

February 13, 2006

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

FILED

FEB 16 2006

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Powder River Basin Resource Council Petition For Rulemaking,
Chapter #2 of The Water Quality Rules

Dear Mr. Gordon:

I am writing this letter to express the importance of oil field discharge water to my ranch, the wildlife of the area, stream channels, wetlands, and the economy of the Big Horn Basin.

I am a 53 year old, fourth generation rancher who can attest to the benefits of oil field discharge water to my ranching operation. Oil field discharge water from three small oil fields provides livestock and wildlife water to four pastures on our ranch. Oil field discharge water has always been a major water source for these pastures. It has been the only water source since the drought hit our area in 2000. Our livestock and the wildlife of the area drink water from the streams year around. In addition to using stream flow, I currently pipe oil field discharge water approximately 3 miles to fill 5 reservoirs which provide water in two pastures.

Creek channels which have oil field discharge water on our ranch are in far better condition than the ephemeral creeks. The year-around oil field discharge water allows wetlands vegetation to grow abundantly in the channels thus stabilizing the creek channel and reducing the erosion. The wetlands that develop around these creeks increase the water table of the surrounding areas. This in turn provides additional feed and habitat for wildlife and livestock.

Oil production is the major tax base for Hot Springs County. Oil production is also the economic base for the county. Everyone in Hot Springs County benefits from an economically viable oil industry. Hot Springs County oil fields are some of the oldest in the state. They produce large amounts of water in order to extract the oil from the ground. A change in the rules

which will force these oil companies to reinject discharge water is unnecessary, unwarranted, and could lead to oil fields shutting in wells and closing fields. Hot Springs County needs these oil companies. My ranching family needs the water they produce. The environment is enhanced and the wildlife thrives because of the oil field discharge water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matt M. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt M. Brown

Cc: John Corra- WDEQ
John Wagner- WDEQ
Todd Parfitt- WDEQ
Office of the Governor