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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street
Herschler Building, Room 1714
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Council Members:

I was pleased to note you voted to proceed with rulemaking concerning released water from Coal Bed Methane.

Huge releases have occurred, but they are dwarfed by what is planned across our state.

As you know, there are various classes of water. So it is with these releases. Therefore the appropriate way of addressing them is different with each release.

1. I believe, where it is feasible, that the most appropriate way to handle this water is to re-inject the water back into the coal aquifer. Since, it seems likely that this water again will interact with the microbes in the coal seam and create more gas. Further, when water is removed from coal aquifers, these coal seams can burn underground. And, the bore holes create pathways for and remaining gas to flow to unintended sites that can cause real hazards.
2. If water is not re-injected, then it should be piped to an appropriate location rather than be allowed to flow down drainages, flood lands or cause erosion and undetermined changes to the watershed.
3. Released waters should be treated before they are put to any kind of beneficial use, whether in a reservoir or into an existing creek or river, if the release will lower the existing water quality or change the existing ecosystem.

The Powder River Basin has been experiencing the problems of these released waters for some time. Their experiences should be a wake up call to the citizens of Wyoming to do better with the rest of the development there, at the Seminoe Road Project, the Atlantic Rim Project and others that are developed. Though we are a dry state and the thinking is that we can not have too much water, that thinking is ill informed. There definitely is too much of a good thing with these released waters. How we address those released waters will affect our quality of life and that of our heirs.



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