

FILED

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February 10, 2006

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

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council
Howell

Salt Creek Field
Surrex Field

Salt Creek
Meadow Creek

Mr. Rancher
Sussex, WY

Anna Kanka

Dear Mr. Gordon,

I am a rancher in the Salt Creek drainage area near Howell's Field. My family has been ranching here for three generations. This letter is a response to you concerning the recent (Dec. 7, 2005) petition of the PRBRC to the Environmental Quality Council; PETITION TO AMEND WYOMING WATER QUALITY RULE, CHAPTER 2, APPENDIX H. My ranch is very concerned with the content and outcome of this petition. We are adamantly opposed to any component of it and recommend that you do not agree to consider any portion of it for Rule making, as it would obviously lead to a curtailment of this source of valuable water that we depend on for the sustenance of our ranch. Enactment of this initiative into law would unnecessarily do harm to my livelihood.

The petitioners seek to have the WDEQ control the quantity of discharge to that which the cattle that I have today can drink. So, with ice formation, evaporation or the movement of wildlife into the area, there could be no water for my cattle. I am adamantly opposed to any decrease in water rates! When decreases in Howell's discharges have occurred in the past, the water became saltier (evaporation or ice formation), and it was not good for the cattle. In fact, the natural waters in Meadow Creek must be naturally very salty and high in sulfates because the cattle do not like it and in certain times of the year this natural alkaline water can kill cattle that drink it. I depend on the produced water to dilute this water and be a source of high quality water for my cattle.

Additionally, limits are recommended for sulfate and barium in the produced water. We have high sulfates naturally in the groundwater and surface waters already. Would these natural waterways be out of compliance with the recommended new rules? Additionally, the recommended limit for sulfate is 500 mg/L. Whoever generated that number has never raised cattle in this country. My cattle have been drinking water over 10,000 mg/L of sulfates for several decades, and without ill effects. In fact, they fatten up faster than on many other ranches. The limit for barium (0.2 mg/L) again does not consider the water that the cattle have been drinking for years with no ill effects. The barium can be several mg/L in the water and the cattle still fatten up at normal rates.

With all due respect Mr. Gordon, please use common sense and do not consider this harmful petition that has no basis, and will only cause harm to our livelihood.

Sincerely yours,
John Q. Rancher