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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Nancy and Robert Sorenson
7241 US Hwy 114-16
Arvada, WY 82831
February 8, 2006

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

RE: Rulemaking petition for chapters 1 and 2 requiring beneficial use of produced water from coal bed methane development:

To the member of the Environmental Quality Council:

It is no longer conjecture what happens when large amounts of Coal Bed Methane water of questionable quality is discharged onto the surface of the land. Ranchers and landowners in the northern and western part of the Powder River Basin have seen their soils and vegetation damaged or destroyed by these discharges. Scientists agree that the type of water being discharged in large quantities over a long period of time will cause permanent damage to the soils, and prevent successful growth of grasses, forages, and irrigated crops. The bottom lands located in normally dry drainages are some of the best range lands on many folks ranches often sub-irrigated by natural flood events. When the balance is upset by the artificial additional of water with too much sodium over a long period of time these bottom lands are destroyed, the vegetation dead or replaced by unpalatable weeds. Even worse, is the permanent damage caused by the dispersal of the top soil, causing formation of a hard clay surface that prevents new vegetation from growing. This damage is nearly impossible to mitigate.

The Department of Environmental Quality has allowed such discharges to occur for too long, claiming the rules and policies do not give them the authority to regulate this discharge of methane water. Therefore, a petition for rulemaking could help the department do the job which it is supposed to do, which is protect the surface for wildlife, ranching and farming.

Please allow this petition to be heard.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy and Robert Sorenson