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CLARA WILSON 19946 HWY 85 NEWCASTLE, WYOMING Terri A. Lorenzon, Director Environmental Quality Council February 12, 2006

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Mark Gordon **Environmental Quality Council** 122 West 25th Street Herschler Building Room 1714 Cheyenne, Wyoming

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Dear Mr. Gordon,

A few years ago our community along the Cheyenne River in Niobrara County were involved in several meetings and hearings with the Department of Environmental Quality and Phillips Petroleum. We are asking that these files be included and considered when you meet next Thursday to discuss the use and disposal of CBM water.

Some of the points brought out were:

- 1. Quality and quanity are very closely related. A very small amount of anything will not have the same effects as a large quantity of the same thing.
- 2. All CBM water is not equal in quality. Some includes heavy metals and other poisons and is unsuitable for any beneficial use, even in small quantities.
- 3. Grade school children know that the water requirements of different kinds of vegetation have extreme differences. More water than necessary will kill some plants, just as too little will cause others to die. To change the quantity of water that has been flowing through Wyoming draws, creeks and streams for millions of years will definitely affect the vegetation that has been growing there for the same time period. The present vegetation is what if preferred by both wildlife and livestock or they would not be here.
- 4. The unnatural presence of large quantities of water also affects the migration of wildlife and the movement of livestock during certain times of the year. Neither will cross on ice or during flooding. It would also be a cause of drowning for many newborns.
- 5. Many ranches in Wyoming straddle a creek or river, the water source for their livestock. These areas also provide shelter for cattle during calving. Ranchers must cross these streams several times a day to care for their livestock. Who would build the bridges? It was pointed out that on the Cheyenne River there is only one bridge between Highway 59 and Highway 85, and many miles in between.
- 6. Phillips Petroleum did several soil tests to determine the effect of their CBM water upon irrigation. This data is in the files also. A large, consistant supply of water would have been beneficial in irrigating, but the quality was not good enough to use on soil near the Cheyenne River. This is probably true in other

areas.

7. The CBM producers have a waste product, water. Agriculture, in itself, receives no monitary benefits from CBM production except in areas where the water has proven to be pure enough for livestock water.

Please include these files on the Cheyenne River in your consideration of beneficial uses for CBM water.

Sincerely,

307-663-7655

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