

FILED

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Environmental Quality Council

State of Wyoming, DEQ, Water Quality Council,
Chairman of the Council
Director of the Department
Town of Wheatland Mayor, Joel Dingman

In regards to the permit issued
the Town of Wheatland to Marty Shepard the
use of the town's waste water for irrigation.
We are very much opposed to this decision!
We live at 127 E. Fairview, north of Marty
Shepard. Enclosed is an overview, showing the
proximity of all three parties.

I don't understand how this can be
a safe decision for my family. We're very much
concerned about our well water being contaminated,
surface contamination, air contamination, and
general health and well being.

It's my understanding the 2 new
holding ponds and the SW pond will be lined.
What about the NE pond across from us?
This pond leaches down now. Will this be
used also for holding waste water? The mist
from this sprinkler floats over to our
property.

We have 3 children, who play

outside. The mist will cover them. It settles on OUR lawn, OUR bikes, OUR trampolines and OUR garden swing. Not to mention if the windows are open, inside OUR house! I hang clothes outside, when it's too hot to use the dryer, as well as everyone else out here. The clothes are suppose to be clean, NOT contaminated with waste water. I want clean clothes to wear, clean air to breathe, clean surfaces to touch, and especially clean water to drink. How will this happen, if the field across from us is watered by waste water?

I'm in no way objecting to farming. I have lived within 1/2 mile for 33 years. I grew up on a farm, raising cattle and crops. I loved the life and everything about it. I wish I could give my children the same opportunity. We only have a small acreage of 6± acres. It's not very much, but it's OUR piece of country HEAVEN. I love this area, and want to raise my kids in a good, HEALTHY home. How can this happen if waste water is in our front yard? It doesn't seem to matter if we can't go outside because of

a film of waste water covering everything. It doesn't matter if we can't breathe clean air. It doesn't matter if our well gets contaminated. It doesn't matter to anyone else, but it sure MATTERS to us a great deal!

I'm told the waste water will be the same quality as "swimming beach" water, yet no one swims in it, or will drink it. The overflow can no longer go down the Wheatland Creek because of fish in a designated trout stream. I believe fish swim and live in the swimming beaches around here, we sure catch them. Signs are posted everywhere to "Keep Out" of the ponds and the experimental field. Why is this, if it's SAFE?

We test our well water now, because of the feed lots and cattle run on the fields surrounding us. Now I have to worry about the waste water getting into our water supply and everything else we own! We don't want waste water next to us. We're scared about it being in ponds 1/2 mile from us and terrified of it being across the road from our water supply and my elderly grandparents.

There's standing water in the field across us during heavy irrigation & heavy rains. Everything flows to our "front yard" because we are down hill from Shepard's fields. Why should we be subjected to waste water in our front yard? We didn't ask for it! Why should we risk our health for the convenience of water. What happens with flooding from heavy rains, or frozen ground? What about dirt that is blown into our yard, full of contaminants? Where will all of the water go? Directly to our "front yard". How is our well safe? The smell is unbearable at over a mile away now, what will it be like across the road? The water is to be used for crops that are for non-human consumption. What about our gardens?

If Marty Shepard wants to risk his own health, that's fine. Why should we have to risk our health, all for the convenience of water? What can we do?

Is the contract actually void between the Town of Wheatland and Shepard's, due to the easement dated from 1939? What about further leased grounds around us in the future?

There's three generations of my family living within 1/2 mile here. My great-grandparents and great uncle moved here in 1946. They started farming where my house used to sit on (until the 1980's) Bellis Road across from Marty Shepard's feed lots and where my parents live. My grandparents came in 1950, moved, and came back in 1965, they've been here ever since. My parents bought their place from my great uncle in 1968 at 187 E. Fairview Rd. My other uncle moved into my grandparents house in 1973 with his family. Everyone has been here to stay, even if the farmground has been sold off over the years. What does this have to do with waste water? Everything, it means we like it here and want to stay. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
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