

TESTIMONY IN FRONT OF WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
October 28, 2008

My name is Brenda Schladweiler. I am the owner of an environmental consulting company that has been in business in the State of Wyoming for over 27 years. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University in Range Management with a concentration in Land Rehabilitation and Masters of Science and PhD in Soil Science from the University of Wyoming. Based on my close affiliation with both the agricultural and industrial sectors of this state, I have chosen, for the most part, to not share my personal opinion in a public forum. However, I feel compelled to share my opinion today as a private citizen.

I have been involved in the issue of defining limits for EC/SAR since 2002 when I was asked by Gary Beach, then WDEQ-WQD, to be involved in the original EC/SAR working group to investigate the need to establish numeric standards rather than narrative criteria. Others on that committee included: George Cleek, NRCS; Larry Munn, UW; Duane Zavadil, CBM Operators Group and PAW; Donna Ruffing, Niobrara County Commissioner; Mark Gordon, landowner; Mickey Steward, CBM Coordinator at the time; Michelle Barlow, WOC; KJ Reddy, UW; and Terry Brown, then Wyoming Research Institute. John Wagner issued a letter on April 22, 2004 indicating that this group could not reach a consensus position and "the Water Quality Standards with the narrative criteria for protection of agricultural activities remain in place and the DEQ has no plans to propose numerical standards to replace the narrative criteria". It was my opinion at the time, and still is, that numeric standards should not be imposed by the WDEQ when the landscape and needs vary significantly on a regional level as well as a state-wide level.

Although I can appreciate the desire for the WDEQ to quantify limits, I am not convinced that it is appropriate. I view this process as I do the recent \$700 billion dollar bailout of financial institutions by the United States government. I was NOT in favor of the bailout based on the simple fact I did not believe it would solve the problem or prevent a repeat occurrence of the current financial crisis from happening. Similarly, I am NOT convinced that this process will protect the resource over a wide variety of landscape situations, as well as avoid lawsuits. The avoidance of lawsuits, both short- and long-term is something I do not see happening.

Thank you for your time.



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