

Powder River Ranch, Inc.
Lula Wagoner
2563 Upper Powder River Rd.
Arvada, WY 82831

Chairman Dennis Boal
Environmental Quality Council
Herschler Building, Room 1714
122 W. 25th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

FILED

SEP 23 2009

Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council

To Whom It May Concern:

As a rancher who has benefited from CBM water development on our place, I am writing this letter to voice my concern about the proposed changes to Tier 2 irrigation standards. The water produced from CBM development has dramatically improved our cattle operation as well as many other ranchers' from around Johnson and Campbell counties. It is well monitored water enjoyed by wildlife and livestock alike, and it would be a shame and a real burden on most ranchers in the area to loose access to it. Many of us have become reliant on it, as it has allowed us to use our driest pastures, which we were hardly able to use before CBM development. The proposed rule may make it difficult if not impossible for the gas companies to offer this water to us. Because these changes would not only effect ranchers benefiting from CBM water development, but many others throughout Wyoming, it is essential that this issue be carefully reviewed and economic impacts be analyzed before making unnecessary changes to rules and standards that have served us well in much busier times in CBM development, especially when such changes have potential to adversely effect the use of produced water statewide.

Living in the Powder River Basin, water has been and will always be a precious resource and a very limiting factor for both livestock production and wildlife. The Tier 2 water from CBM development has increased the carrying capacity for both on our place by encouraging our cattle to graze and water in places that, previous to development, they rarely traveled. With the abundance of water tanks along the CBM waterline cattle and wildlife thrive, and our creek and river bottoms are healthier than ever as they are no longer the only places to find good water.

Whether drilling wells, putting in and maintaining pipeline, or building reservoirs, water development is very expensive and is hard to get a cow to pay for, especially during these times. The water produced from gas production and the pipelines and other water development projects that the gas companies have done on our place have been a long needed blessing that otherwise would not have been feasible. It has been proven that cattle gain weight much better when water is readily available and I believe our cattle have done better and weaned heavier calves since CBM production has begun for that reason. It just doesn't make sense to shut off access to, or make a bunch of new

regulations on such needed water after the time and money has already been invested to make it available and things are thriving on it. We hope these rules can be reconsidered and our CBM water will be available for years to come. It would really be a wasted resource to limit people from taking advantage of using it.

I would like to request that the state Department of Administration and Information, Division of Economic Analysis do a "socio-economic impact study and analysis" especially related to the "social and economic value of the source of pollution" and the "character and degree of injury to or interference with the health and well being of the people, animals, wildlife, aquatic life and plant life affected" before making any policy changes. If changes in policy are found to be necessary, a non-severability provision should be inserted in the proposed rule saying that the EPA must approve or disapprove it in its entirety. This would help to maintain local control and help the people involved to have the flexibility they need to look at water issues on a case by case basis and make the best decisions for water use in each unique situation.

I appreciate this opportunity to voice my concern about the availability of water which is so valuable to us and has been a God send to our livestock operation.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lula Wagoner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Lula Wagoner, President
Powder River Ranch