

September 22, 2009

**FILED**

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Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary  
Environmental Quality Council

Chairman Dennis Boal  
Environmental Quality Council  
Herschler Building, Room 1714  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Chairman:

This letter is in response to the proposed water quality rules concerning agricultural water supply. As a landowner, rancher, and an owner of interests in the oil and gas industry located within Campbell County, I have a very large stake in that matters being proposed to the Environmental Quality Council. I feel the rules that are being proposed are an imminent threat to the livelihood and well-being of not only those affected in the various industries of agriculture, livestock, and oil and gas, but to all who live in Wyoming. In response to the proposed rules and the allowed comment period, I make the following suggestions below.

The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) should remand the proposed rule to the Water and Waste Advisory Board (WWAB) for further review and revision if the EQC decides the changes are necessary and needed to Tier II of the irrigation standards. Fellow landowners and I rely on some of the water, such as coalbed methane, for our livestock and other uses which would be subject to this rule. The WWAB has more knowledge and a firmer grasp of the issues at hand when responding to matters involved with irrigation. The guidance they can issue to the EQC would be and will be immeasurable. By allowing WWAB first crack at solving this controversy, they can study and elaborate on the character and effect of the proposed rule on all industries and Wyoming.

A non-severability provision is needed and should be provided in the proposed rule. A provision such as this would allow the EPA to either approve or disapprove the rule in its entirety, and if any provision of the rule is struck down or vetoed, then the entire rule is invalid. I do not want items redlined from the rule, but would rather see the entire rule struck down if one section is not acceptable to the EPA.

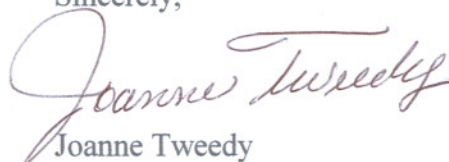
The socio-economic decisions involved in the proposed rule need to be analyzed in entirety before adopting any rule as it will have dire consequences for many people. The State of Wyoming has the necessary departments that handle these type of requests for studies and analyses. The socio-economic value assigned by the State will help quantify the damage or benefit the rule may have on certain sectors of life and business in Wyoming. We need to understand these impact to our fullest capacity before passing an unnecessary rule which would be in effect before the study has been completed. Many in this country and this state have seen and been impacted by poor economic planning by government entities lately because of hasty

decision-making. This is not a time nor the place for this.

The impact of a rule such as this has far reaching repercussions that have not been adequately studied and addressed. The recommendations from the EQC's experts impact existing and future oil and gas operations statewide, wildlife, and livestock. The DEQ would need to collect more information and data to determine the actual impact the proposed rule will have on these existing and future oil and gas operations, ranches, farms, and wildlife.

I am sure there have been several other comments and letters directed to the EQC recently. The proposed rule has severe impacts for all sectors of Wyoming which need to be adequately addressed when adopting or attempting to adopt a rule such as this. An ill-favored and ill-informed decision will make for poor planning and create future problems for future generations of Wyoming. I would like to see that these concerns and comments are met and adequately addressed before making a decision on the proposed rule. This is very important to me, my family, and my businesses and I thank you for your time for reading this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Tweedy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joanne Tweedy