

COMMENTS – 2007

Environmental Quality Council Hearings

CHAPTER 2 WATER QUALITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Resubmitted by

WYOMING STOCK GROWER'S ASSOCIATION

August 26, 2008

WS Ranch
Lindy Burgess
P.O. Box 80
Wyarno, WY 82845

FILED
JAN 08 2007
Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

January 4, 2007

Mark Gordon, Chair
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
Herschler Building
122 W. 25th St., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mark and members of the Council,

I would like to offer the following comments concerning the proposed rule changes to Chapter 2 of Wyoming's Water Quality Rules and Regulations which will come before the Council on January 17th.

- The Petition by the Powder River Resource Council, et al., does not adequately represent my views as a rancher/landowner with CBM development.
- The paragraph revision (d)(i) of Appendix H which adds language 'to the extent discharge water is actually used by livestock/ or wildlife' seems to require that all discharge water made available to animals must be utilized by such animals and must therefore be quantified. What is important is that our livestock have access to *plenty* of clean, fresh water on a year round basis. This might include the storing or release of more water than animals are actually consuming at any one point in time. The Agricultural Use Policy should adequately address effluent quality and problems of erosion and encroachment of these waters into main stream channels or shallow aquifers.
- I disagree with the Petitioner's contention that evaluation of and impact to surface water is not being dealt with. We have many 'monitoring' wells in place to do just that. Downstream testing of CBM discharge water is a current and necessary requirement.

- The Petitioner's statement that water 'quantity' is an issue is not news. When quantity of produced water is too great then problems do indeed arise. If we assure that the rules pertaining to such problems are adequate, then the process will work. Most of us have surface and damage agreements which not only utilize the standards in the Agricultural Use Policy but go even farther. Preserve our power to negotiate these agreements to curtail production of water as problems arise.
- The Petitioner's contend that *bonding and "implementation guidance" concerning reclamation of lands under impoundments is inadequate*. If true, then I agree this language should be strengthened to require successful reclamation.
- I firmly believe that Industry and Agriculture can choose the best methodology for water production on a case by case basis. Rules that essentially force re-injection might well prove imprudent in areas of certain geology.
- There are many inherent problems with water treatment, soil amendment and other approaches. Preserve our ability to negotiate the best solution on a case by case basis while following appropriate guidelines.
- The proposed changes to maximum levels of sulfates, total dissolved solids and barium seem too stringent. A quick internet search yields recommendations which are more lenient and defensible. Let the CBM Water Taskforce which is working on these issues in Wyoming report their findings and hold off on limit changes until they do.
- Making the Agricultural Use Protection policy a 'rule' is not a bad idea *per se* but the limits contained therein must be well documented and defensible. I believe such limits should apply to all produced water and not just to CBM water. Anything less is capricious. We, and others, have utilized natural spring water for years with Sulfate and TDS levels far above the proposed limits with no adverse effects to our livestock. A maximum is a level above which effluent becomes clearly inadequate, it is not an ideal.
- I find no credible documentation supporting the Barium limit. There is no mention of Barium toxicity in the Merck Veterinary Manual or the Enzminger Stockman's Handbook. I find no mention of livestock limits on the EPA site. I do find evidence that Barium salts are usually insoluble and that Barium toxicity poses little threat to livestock and humans. The petition inaccurately describes

hypokalemia as a reduction of Phosphorus in the blood. It is in fact a reduction of Potassium in the blood. It is not hard to understand why this rule change seems completely arbitrary and capricious. It seems to have been brought up by those with little understanding of the science and questionable documentation.

In conclusion, it is not hard to understand the frustrations of a few who have had bad experiences with Coal Bed Methane water discharge. But there are many more of us who have had excellent experiences and wish to preserve our ability to continue to use this resource in a responsible and environmentally sound way.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lindy Burgess". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Lindy Burgess

FILED

JAN 11 2007

Wyoming Environmental Quality Control
122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building, room 1714
Cheyenne, Wy 82002

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

I have lived my entire 57 years on the banks of Powder River and Crazy Woman Creek drainages. My parents, and now I have been involved in the ranching business all that time. I use the water from methane for livestock and have plans to incorporate methane water into irrigation. I now pump from Crazy Woman for an existing 68 acre field of alfalfa. I plan to add 60 more acres of alfalfa using a water blend from methane production and Crazy Woman this year. I need either sufficient flow in Crazy Woman or storage capacity for the blended water to be able to utilize this new irrigation plan.


I think all ranchers would agree that a year round stream flow is desirable in Crazy Woman Creek for livestock water. After observing many deer and antelope water this summer from my stock tank that is 30 yards from the house, (because crazy woman was stagnant pools,) I feel the wild life would benefit also. It is a given that the fish would benefit. By eliminating the stagnant pools, we have removed the breeding areas for mosquito, buffalo gnat, and other undesirables that are problems for humans, livestock, sage grouse, and other animals. These problems are: West Nile, Sleeping sickness, Blue tongue, and others. Many of the ranch homes are within yards of the banks of Crazy Woman. If this petition passes, summer stream flow in Crazy Woman is weather dependent. In the last 5 years, since I started irrigating, Crazy Woman has ceased to flow 4 of the 5 years.

I use the water from methane for livestock water in my summer and winter pastures. Winter pasture has 5 stock tanks and summer pasture has many reservoirs and has methane water supplying water to 4 miles of pipeline, with 6 tanks, that I did have to pump with a generator. During this drought, the reservoirs were empty and the well for my pipeline wouldn't supply adequate water and Crazy Woman ceased to flow from the first part of June until late October. With the existing reservoirs and new ones that are now being built, I will have water in every segment of the pasture.

I am opposed to having DEQ regulate the quantity of the water and I feel that the current limits are adequate for safety. (If it ain't broke, don't fix it). In my opinion the landowner should have the personal freedom to use the water produced from his land.

I think that methane water discharge into Crazy Woman Creek, (with water that was suitable for livestock, wildlife, birds, and irrigation), would benefit not only the ranchers, but the entire ecosystem in this area.

I also feel that this petition should be disallowed or tabled until the Governor's Water Task Force has had time to render their recommendations.

EK Ranch LLC

Eddie T Knudson
2879 Tipperary rd.
Arvada, WY 82831

FILED

January 11, 2007

JAN 15 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

We are a small business in Johnson County; we are a family owned ranch.

If the proposed revisions to Chapter 1, Water Quality Rules and Regulations are adopted, you will essentially hobble our ability to negotiate the use of a commodity that is produced as a by product of subsleasing our surface.

We live in Wyoming where water is a precious commodity. Our bottom line "lives or dies" each year based on our annual precipitation. This past summer we lost livestock due to the extended drought and lack of water. Our neighbor, however, had Coalbed Methane water being pumped into a reservoir in an adjacent pasture and we were able to move our cattle on to water. Crazy Woman Creek has gone dry 5 out of the last 6 years. Thanks to Coalbed Methane production we have stock water in a pasture that has historically relied on Crazy Woman Creek for water. Ranchers need to maintain the ability to negotiate how they want to use this by-product (water) of Coalbed Methane production.

Currently each rancher has the right and ability to negotiate an arrangement that enhances their personal operation. If these rules are adopted this right and ability will be lost.

Each rancher's needs and uses vary widely. Passing a stringent set of rules to meet the desires of a few will cripple the ability of the majority of landowners to work with the Coalbed Methane Industry. We can work with the Coalbed Methane Industry or we can force them out of Wyoming with increasingly **unreasonable rules and regulations**. Do we really want to cut off the head of "the goose that is laying the golden eggs"?

As private landowners we want the right to negotiate how we will use a precious commodity (water) that is produced on our business property.

In times of drought and ever narrowing profit margins it is imperative that we maintain a voice in what is done with the water that is produced on our property.

The Governor has developed *CBNG Task Force* to look into this very issue. This task force is currently holding meetings around the state of Wyoming to gather information. They will submit their findings at their October 2007 meeting.

If you are not prepared to summarily **deny** this PRBRC Petition, then please, table this matter until the Governor's task force has assembled its findings.

Sincerely,



Scott and Lorri Lutterman

P.O. Box 567
1517 Tipperary Rd.
Buffalo, WY 82834
(307)758-4382

Len Cannella
728 Cottonwood Cr. Rd.
Worland, WY 82401

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
Herschler Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

FILED

JAN 16 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Citizen Petition of PRBRC

To whom it may concern,

I wish to express my opposition to this petition and make the following points.

1. I am personally dependent upon the produced water I now receive. Were this water source to be lost I would suffer insurmountable economic disaster. This water is also of untold benefit to wildlife and riparian flora.
2. Additional regulatory approval for instream uses would be redundant, expensive and of no value.
3. New discharge standards are being proposed without scientific basis or technical data. The current standards have been working for many years and I see no reason to alter them. At a minimum, any new standards should grandfather in the water producers who have been discharging for many years and apply only to new developments.
4. The changes proposed would have devastating economic impacts on the Big Horn Basin as well as the rest of Wyoming. Much of the oil and gas industry that is so economically important to the citizens of Wyoming would be lost.
5. I do not feel any changes should be made until meetings are held throughout the state, to give other concerned citizens an opportunity to express themselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Len Cannella

January 8, 2007

Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building, Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: PRBRC Petition

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JAN 16 2007

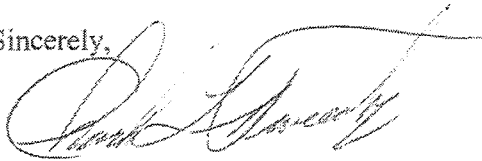
Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

To Whom It May Concern:

Please don't pass any rules based upon the Powder River Basin Resource Council petition. I prefer that we develop CBM on Wyoming's terms. Those terms are the terms that I negotiate with the operator without interference from the PRBRC or you based upon some nonsense from a group that says no to everything. I have development on my land and find that I am able to protect the quality of my ranch without your help. We don't need any additional regulation.

I'm really opposed to the EQC doing any additional rule making on CBM water quality without recommendations from the CBM Task Force. Wasn't the Task Force created to identify the problems and make recommendations to fix them? It appears that you may have the "cart before the horse."

Sincerely,



FILED

JAN 16 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Buffalo Wyo

Jan 10, 2007

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street Herschler Bldg Room 1714
Cheyenne Wyo 82002

Dear EQC Council

this letter is regarding
the petition of the Powder River
Basin Resource Council WQO 7
appendent 8.

This is my concern, as a rancher
and I am opposed to the DEQ
changing any rule for the PRBRC
they do not represent me and I
find it interesting that our tax
dollars are being spent on
something that comes from a group
that is opposed to this kind of a
issue

If we are that concerned about
CBM Water quality, then let the
CBM task force do its job. It
looks like new rules with out
hearing any recommendation from the
CBM task force is not right

the task force was formed to
look at C B M Water issues and to
make recommendations. Those
recommendations are due Oct, 2007

What is there job if their
information is not taken into
this issue.

Thank you for your time, as a
Rancher I love my land and try to take good
of it. Betty Rice

PRBRC CITIZEN PETITION COMMENTS:

SUBMITTED BY GENE E. LITTON, CAMPBELL CO. RANCHER

Dec
1-17-07

The requirements that the Powder River Resource Council Petition is asking for would not be acceptable for our ranch or many other ranches in our area. Some of those ranch representatives are here with us today.

First of all, the water in our area is good enough for human consumption and that includes CBNG water. When the CBNG water and our house water were tested, it was found that if we did not treat our water with a softener and reverse osmosis, we would be better off drinking the CBNG water, it is that good. We have no problem with the water.

To add to that, we have planted 1200 trees in our shelter belt, various trees in our ranch yard. And have over an acre of lawn, along with them, that we water with the CBNG water. Not to mention we have 2 other home sites, where there are trees, lawns, lot of flowers, and all kept growing hardily with CBNG water. And a garden that also flourishes because of CBNG water.

The petitioners and the EQC are looking at too broad of a spectrum with this petition. If, in fact, there is not a water quality problem in our area, why should we all (state wide) be put in jeopardy of losing the one sustainable resource we have counted on for several years. Why should we be put in a position where our ranch could not operate as we have in the past, where our water is involved?!

With our water infrastructure in place, provided by the coal bed methane industry, it would be a shame if, because of the proposed regulations, we could no longer use this established system for our continued ranching operation. It was designed to be a future asset to our ranch.

I might add that though we have had four (4) years of severe drought, we have had to reduce our livestock numbers. We have been able to survive and stay in business because of this good water supply. We could not have done it without that water!

Yet I wonder what will happen to us and many more people in Wyoming if the methane gas industry has to shut down because of this highly restrictive proposed

petition. I'm not sure the tax payers or the legislators will be to happy at the loss of all that revenue, when there are better ways to handle this matter.

I see in a couple of papers that the Governor states that the oil & gas industry expects to be drilling between 4,000 to 5000 new wells each year for the next four or five years. This would certainly keep our economy bright.

If the proposed petition is accepted & adopted, many of these wells and maybe all of them, might not be as able to get a discharge permit that would allow them to drill, let alone operate these future wells.

Therefore, it would be a tragedy for Wyoming to have a blanket policy adopted for the discharge of methane waters in our state. Why sacrifice the beneficial use of the good methane discharge waters, when it is such a vital asset to our state. There can be rules and regulations worked out on those waters that are possibly not as beneficial as others. This could well be developed between those ranchers and the methane companies, and become a win win situation.

I really don't feel that the methane waters will be with us for a long period of time, as it has already in some areas beginning to decline. Lets not be hasty in adopting a plan that doesn't take in to consideration, there are areas that need and want the water, and are willing to negotiate a positive solution for the discharge or storage or use of that water.

The methane water on our ranch has become a most viable resource, and we can ill afford to lose it!! We have built in a system that allows us to use this water in the most beneficial, and sustaining way. And this was done with the help and the guidance of the methane companies we have had the opportunity to work with.

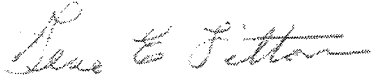
Although I've spoken mostly about methane water, because that is the water that affects us at this time, I have a real concern with the proposed petition before the Committee. And that is, this petition affects all discharged waters in this state. Whether it be from wells, methane waters, stored waters, etc. And there lies a big concern. That's why I feel a blanket policy is not the way to go. Each situation has to be considered on its own merit. Good water or bad, it is not the same!!

In these drought years, you can survive with a little feed, but we can not survive without water. We have that water now, with the methane water - and we sure don't want to lose it. We followed the proper procedures with every well site and discharge of the water from these wells. We're happy! We're satisfied!

The state of Wyoming - State Engineers office has done an outstanding job, with the applications for water permits, etc.

Don't regulate something that is going to be impossible to monitor, or regulate.

Respectfully submitted,



Gene E. Litton
5925 HWY 59 S
Gillette, WY 82718
(307) 939 - 1289
Fax: (307) 464 - 1517
Cell: 680 - 1411

Rec'd
1-17-07

Mr. Chairman, members of the council, my name is Doug Cooper and I am a rancher from Casper. The proposed change in the regulations goes far beyond the subject of environmental quality and reaches into water rights, and if adopted, will undoubtedly change the whole course of how water quality and quantity is regulated in Wyoming. While I have no first hand experience with Coal Bed Methane production I have a great deal of experience with oil and gas exploration and production, pipelines, and uranium exploration. I have also served for a number of years on the Non-point Source Water Quality Task Force and was one of the original members of the Task Force. I have a great deal of sympathy for people who are impacted by energy development but this is not the solution to the problem. It is a dangerous precedent to allow the Department of Environmental Quality to enter into the subject of the amount of water quantity that qualifies as a beneficial use. Beneficial use is a term derived from Wyoming water law and should not be corrupted to mean only the actual amount of water consumed by livestock and wildlife.

It is always a good idea when calling for new regulations to examine ones own practices to see if the pot might be calling the kettle black. I routinely pump water from wells to water both wildlife and livestock. I fail to see any practical difference in my use of my water rights from what the coal bed methane industry is doing. Our goal is always to produce more water than wildlife and livestock consume. If I was forced to live by this proposed standard, then I would be out of business very soon. It would be virtually impossible to regulate remote water wells to produce only what livestock and wildlife drink. It is also interesting that this standard would not allow wildlife to use water for habitat. A duck does not drink much water but does require a fair amount to swim around on. If these regulations are adopted as written, then it will be only a matter of time until this concept is used to limit grazing on public and private land. A water right becomes meaningless if the amount allocated can be controlled by those wishing to stop an activity of which they do not approve.

As dry as Wyoming has been the past eight years I cannot imagine anyone being bothered by the offer of potable water. It seems there is a great lack of imagination in the people who can't think of something inventive to do with the water produced by Coal Bed Methane operations. One of the more innovative projects I was involved with while on the Non-Point Source Task Force was the Wetlands Treatment Project where water from an oil field was successfully treated and improved through the creation of an artificial wetland. This practice would be prohibited if the source was from Coal Bed Methane production. It is entirely arbitrary to treat water produced by one type of energy development differently than another. I urge the council not to change the regulations and to keep the original language intact.

Rec'd
1-17-07

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am Faye Mackey a Campbell County Rancher. I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. I am here to speak, not only for my ranch but for the 581,250 acres and landowners represented here on the map in blue. These are ranchers I have spoken to personally and I am sure there are more that would like their acres included in the sea of blue that is before you that I have not had the opportunity to speak with. These ranchers as well I use our water beneficially for our livestock, wildlife habitat, irrigation and even some domestic water used in areas such as shelter belts around buildings and we are able to work with operators to do so. There is no waste of water here. In several editorials by some uninformed individuals it has been called a by product or waste water from the production of coal bed methane. I can tell you that neither of those words fits my use of this water. This water and my ability to direct its use on my ranch is essential to my current agricultural operation.

There is no "one size fits all" solution here. We as ranchers know our soil types. We look at whether we can irrigate on a mister or pivot system and industry has been very helpful in this, testing the soils and taking water samples at different intervals to make sure there is no saturation point to draw up any unwanted alkaline in the soils that are there naturally.

There is an ole saying "a picture is worth a thousand words". Well I am here to save a thousand words and show you some pictures of projects where stock tanks have been set and reservoirs have been built in cooperation with producers. There is no massive wall of water rushing down a draw or creek as has been described. Water in these projects is contained and if there happens to be a tail on a reservoir in a natural setting it is hardly 60 feet in length. I do not see how it could affect the neighbor miles away let alone someone in the next county. Further, I wish, I could irrigate out of my reservoirs but the water discharged into the reservoir has lessened and there is not enough to sustain a pivot system and those that do have it I am rather jealous of. I am told that with the pivot system, as you can see in some of the photos that the forage capacity per animal unit on those acres are down to 8 acres per animal unit versus 32 acres per AUM and in this drought some may have been as high as 45 acres per AUM.

On one of the ranches North of Gillette they are using a wheel roll system instead of a pivot system which works very similar to the pivot, running the water for 12 hours on one spot and then moving to another spot to water for

12 hours. After the sprinkler has been moved there are no apparent signs of salts. I have been told that they have actually cut and put up hay in the area this last year, when there were a lot of ranches that had to buy hay in these times of drought. Some do not put up hay but use it to winter their cows on. There have been studies by industry in these areas that the native grass is approximately 5 times thicker than without the application of CBM produced water. Even after the pivot is gone and moved to a different location the grass will sustain and be thicker there than was before even into the following year. The one ranch in particular that I am talking about has 5 years worth of data to show the beneficial use of the water on a wheel roll system.

I could continue on with story after story but I want to be brief and leave you with this thought. The companies that are in this industry have been most helpful to us as ranchers and we have a good relationship with them and they respect our property and help us to make improvements to our land. I have found that if I state my wishes, negotiate and work hand in hand with industry I can make my ranch better for the next generation. You will find that there are people who can not get along as neighbors, which is unfortunate, and it puts them at odds with the world. On these occasions common sense MUST intervene with the understanding that one size does not fit all in every ranching situation. The citizen petition presented to you by the Powder River Basin Resource Council proposes to place a stranglehold on these operators, and will effectively remove my ability to direct, receive and beneficially use the produced water. The way I read the petition, it looks like water discharge will essentially cease as we know it if it is moved forward as presented. I don't see anything in this petition that proposes to protect my ranch from the loss of this discharge water. As you can see from the 581,250 acres before you, there is overwhelming opinion that the produced water is already being put to beneficial use. We ask that this committee rule against this citizen petition brought on and encouraged by those who wish to do nothing more than litigate every drop of water.

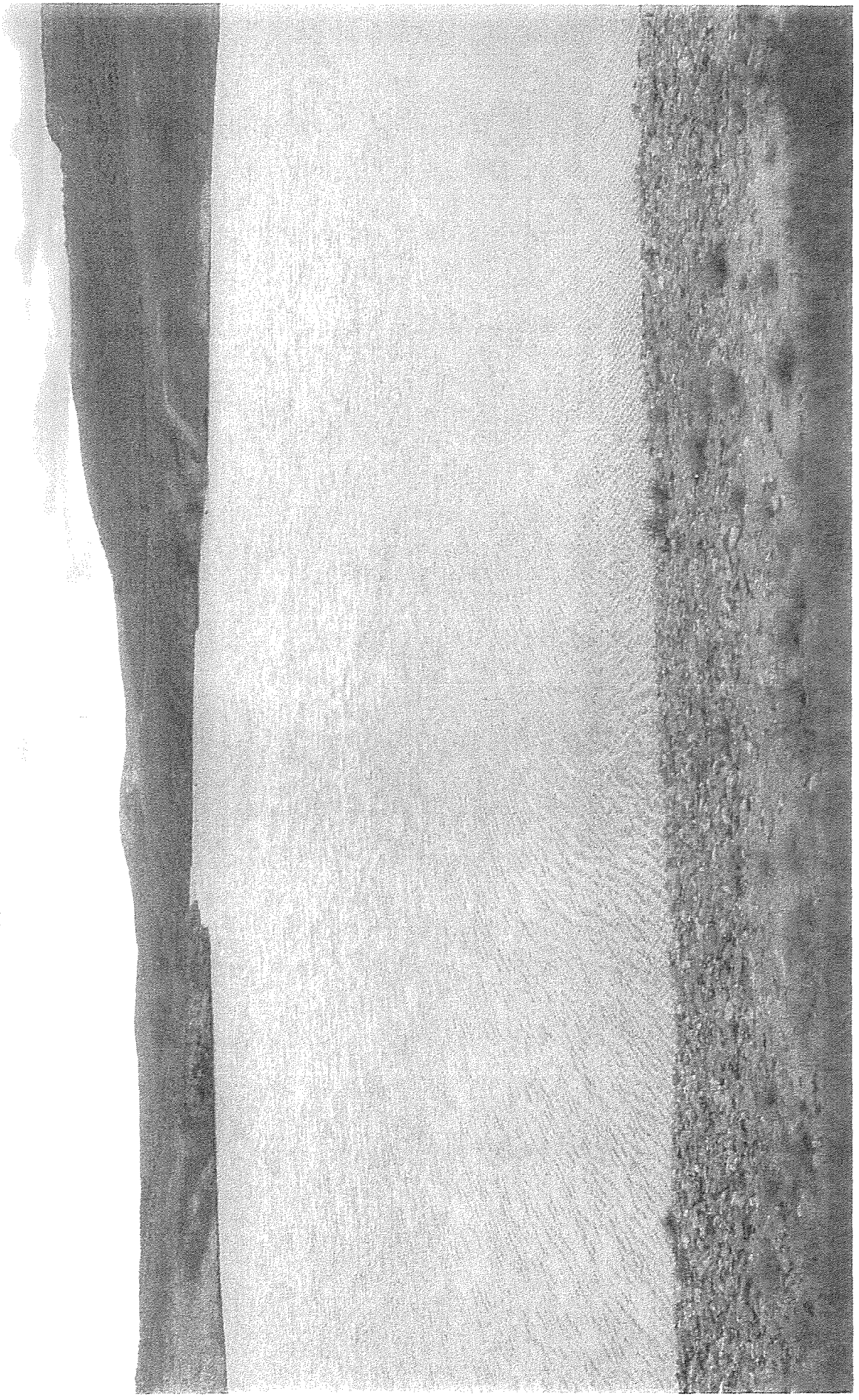
Thank you very much for taking the time to listen to one of the silent majority. I would be happy to answer any questions that the council may have.

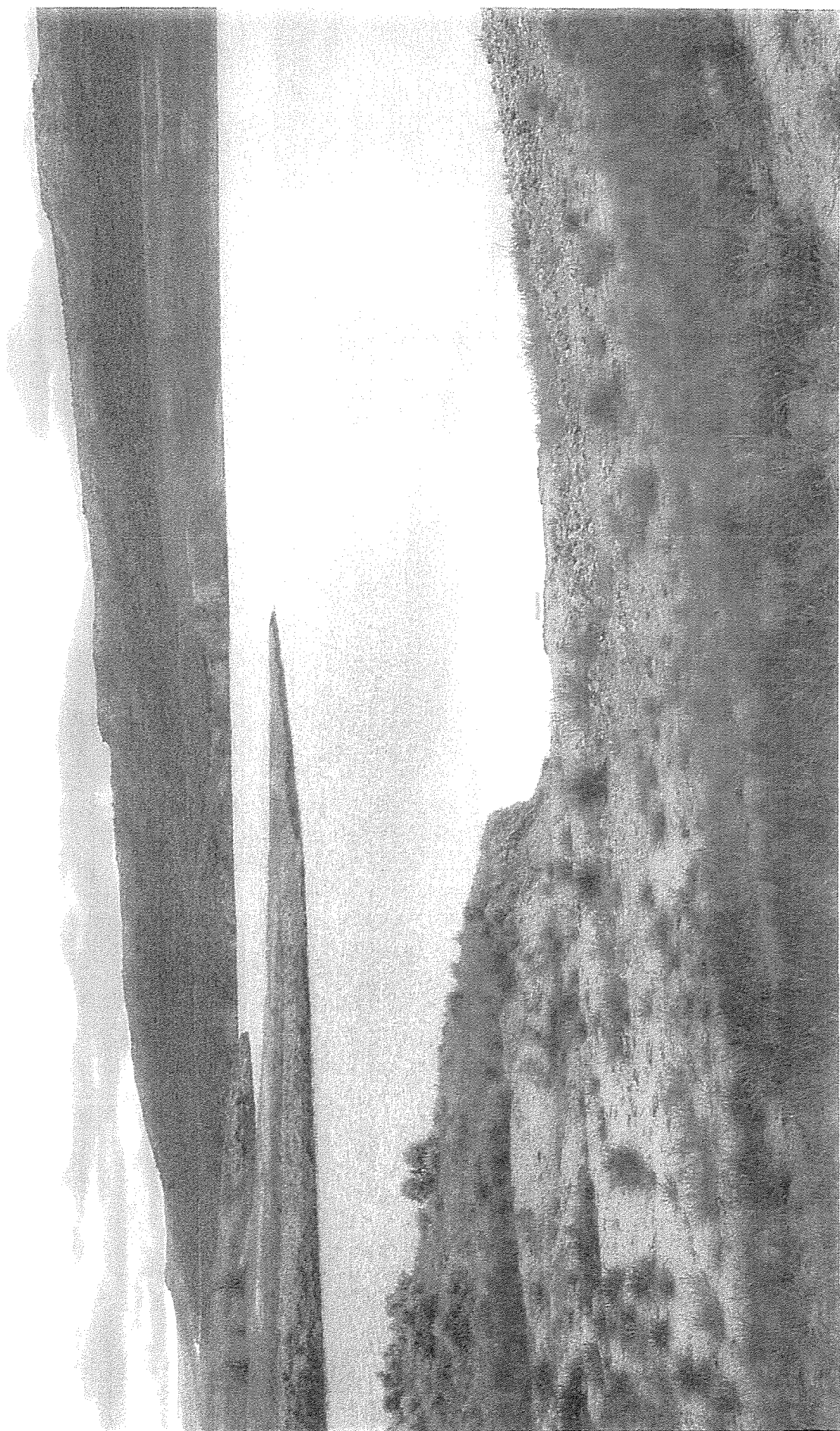
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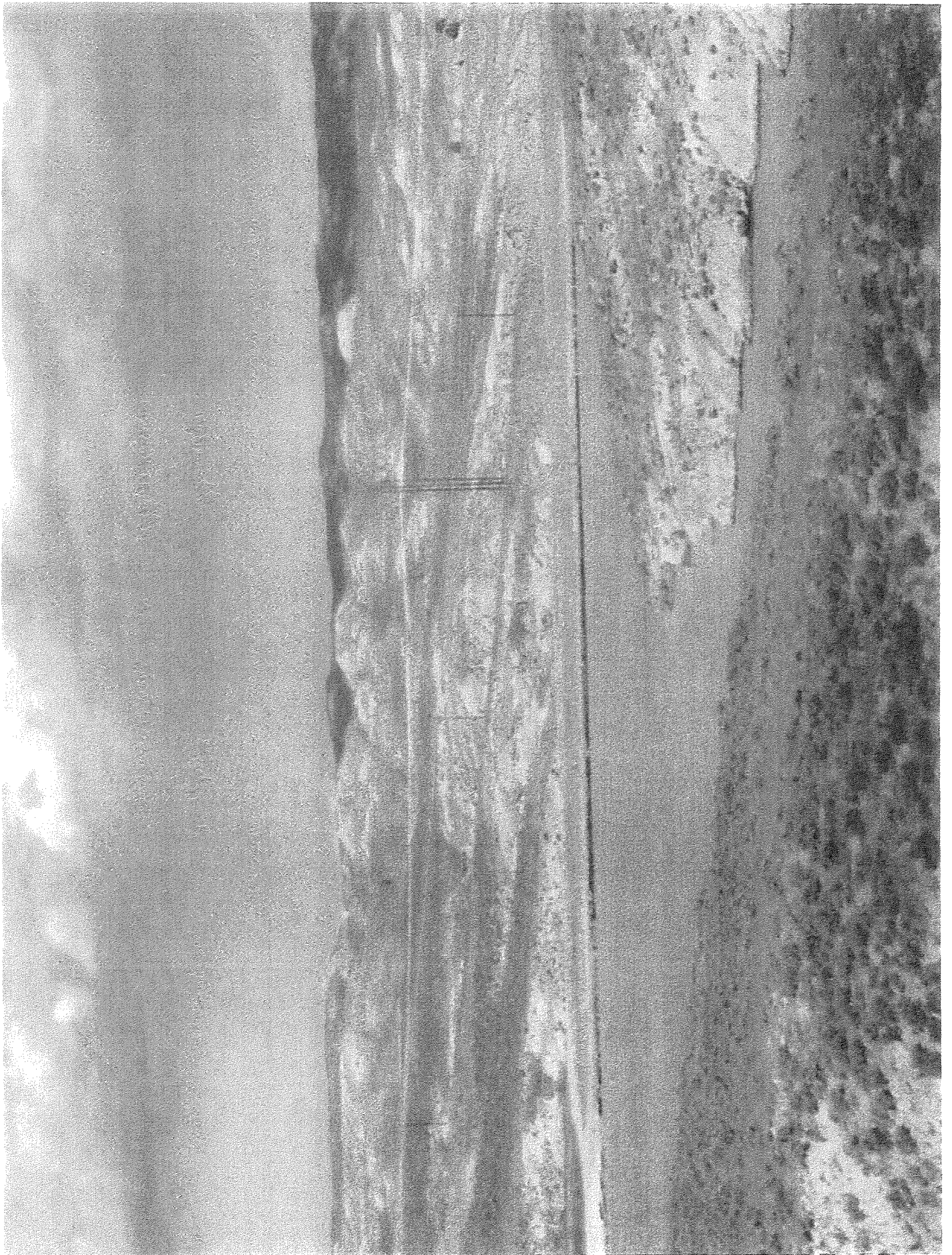
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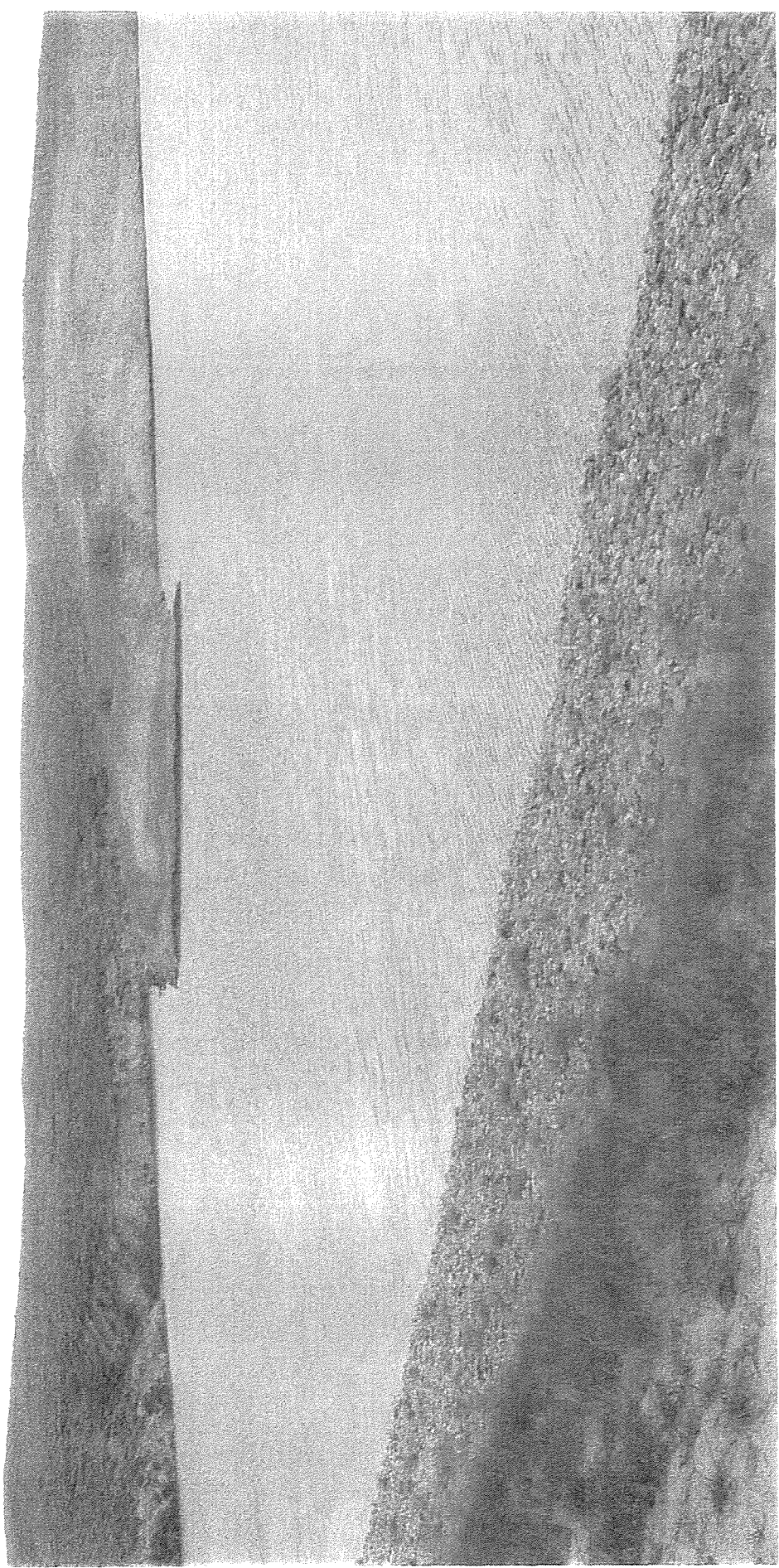
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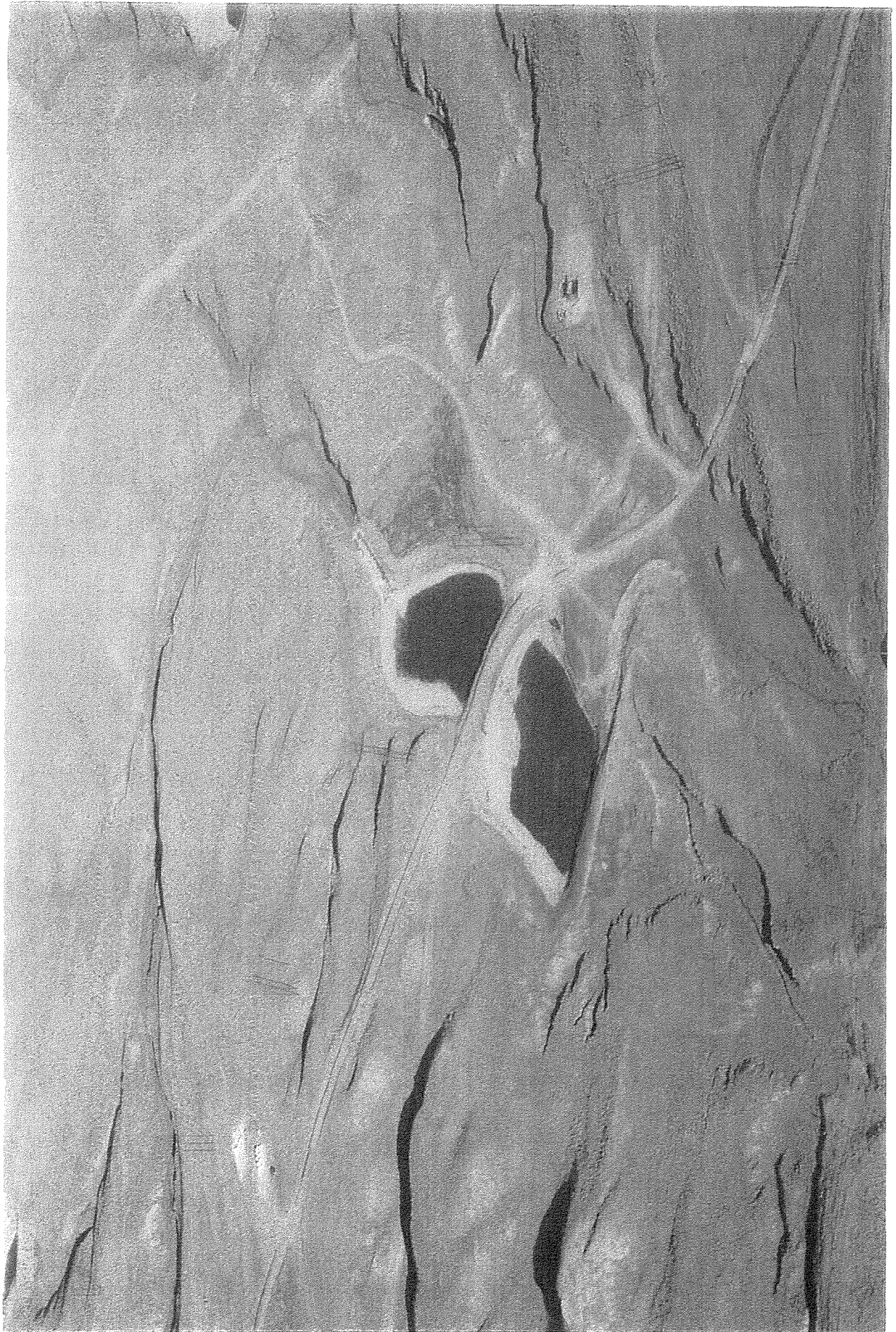
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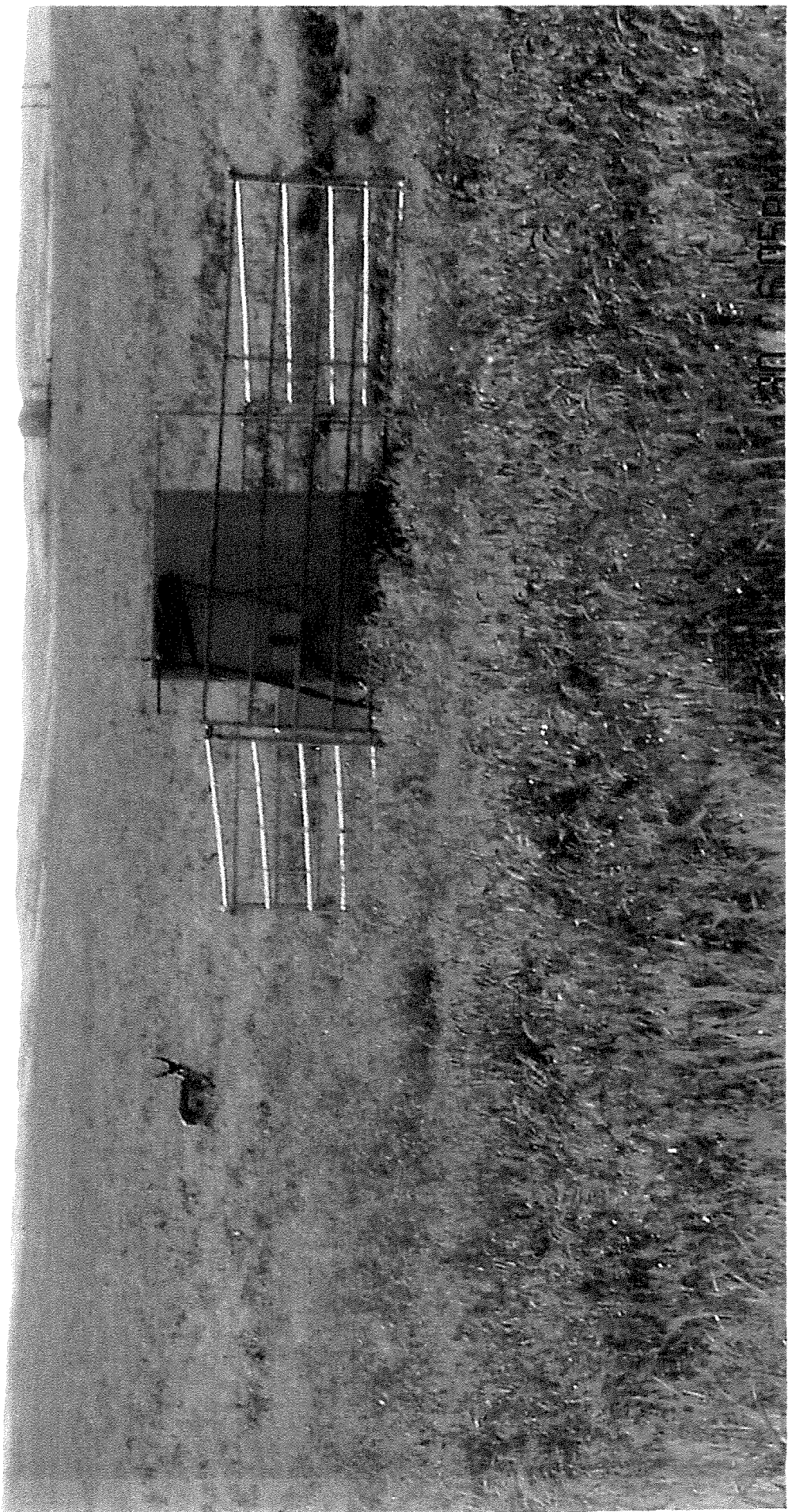
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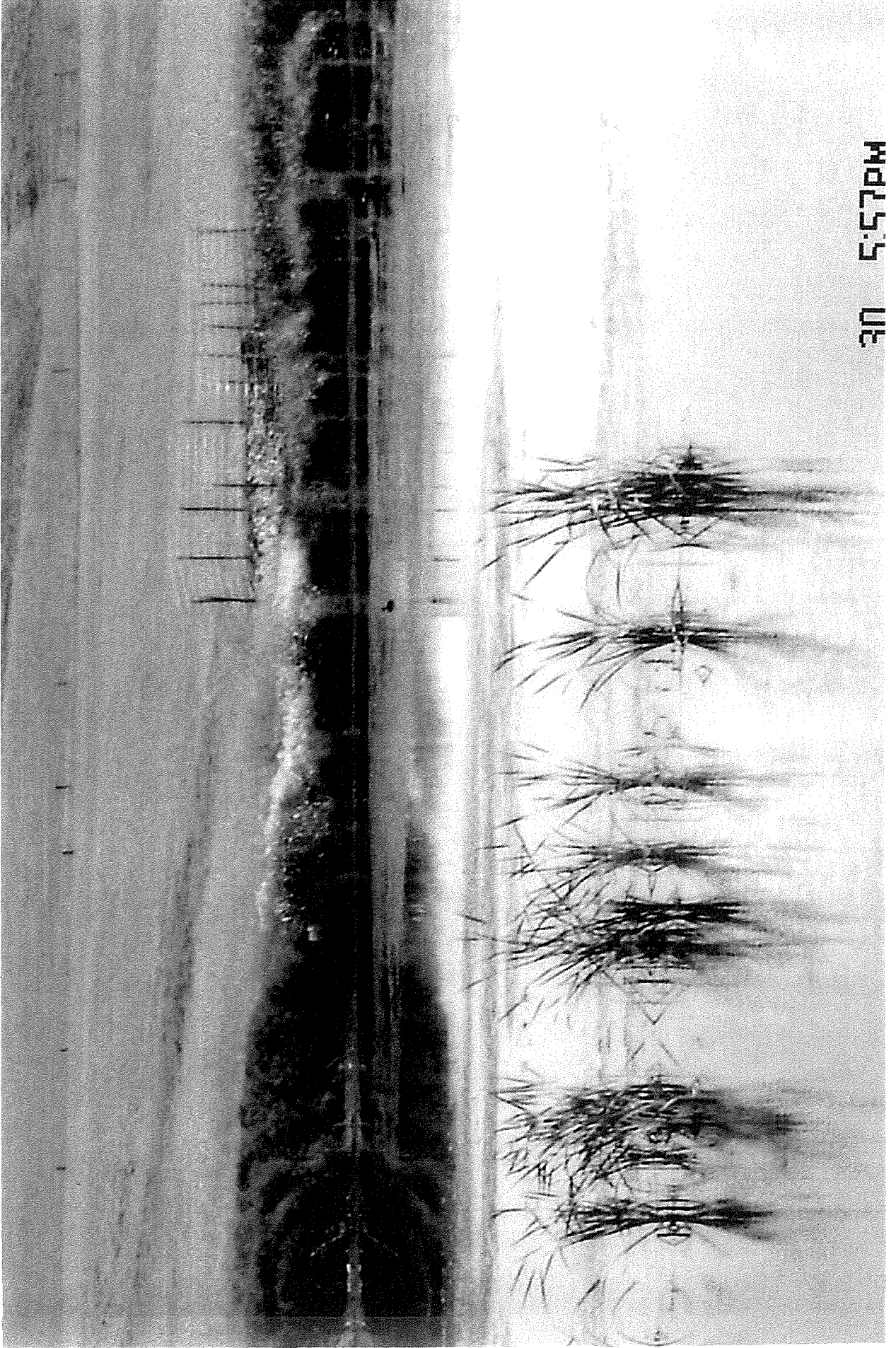
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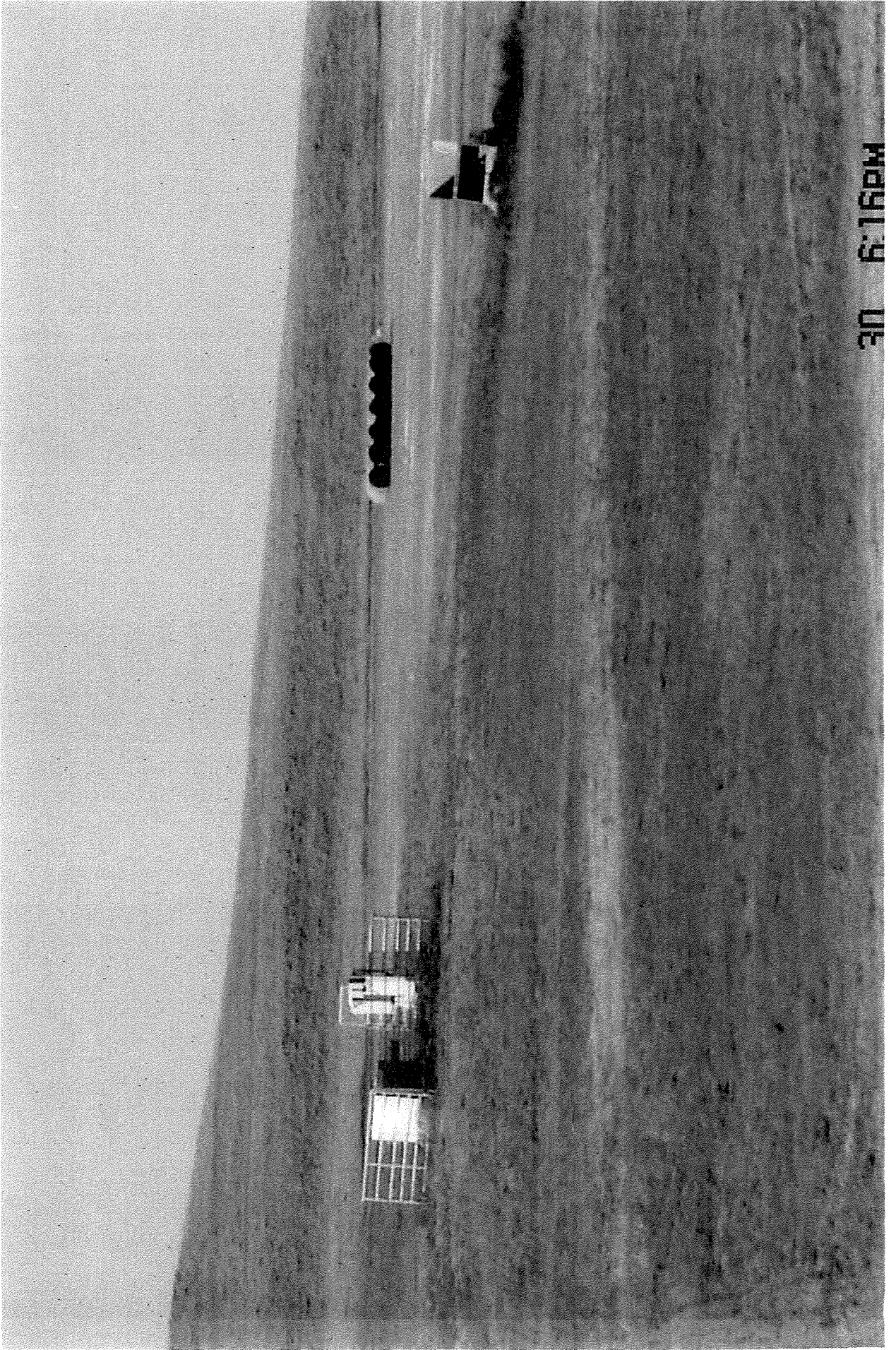


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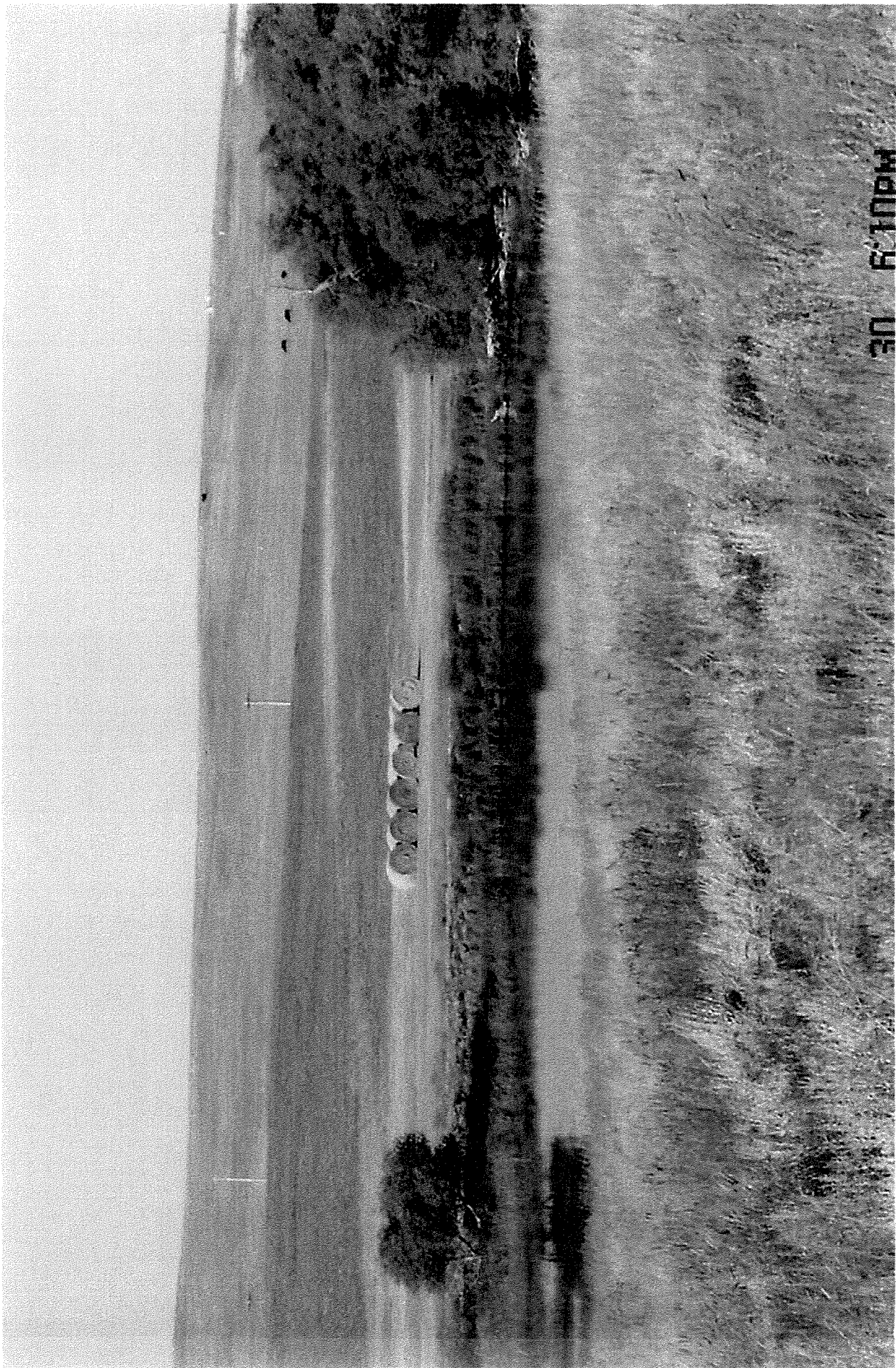
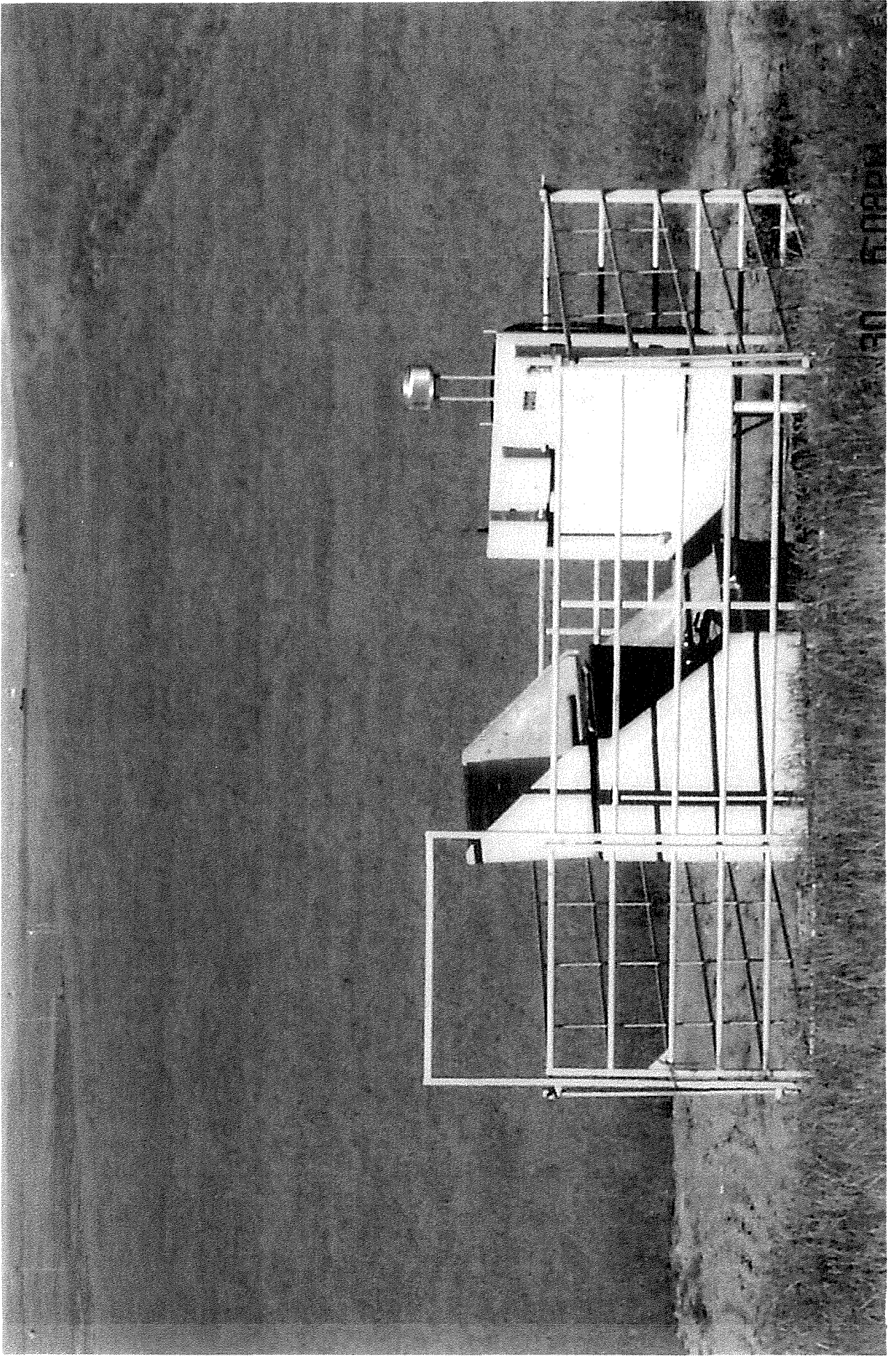


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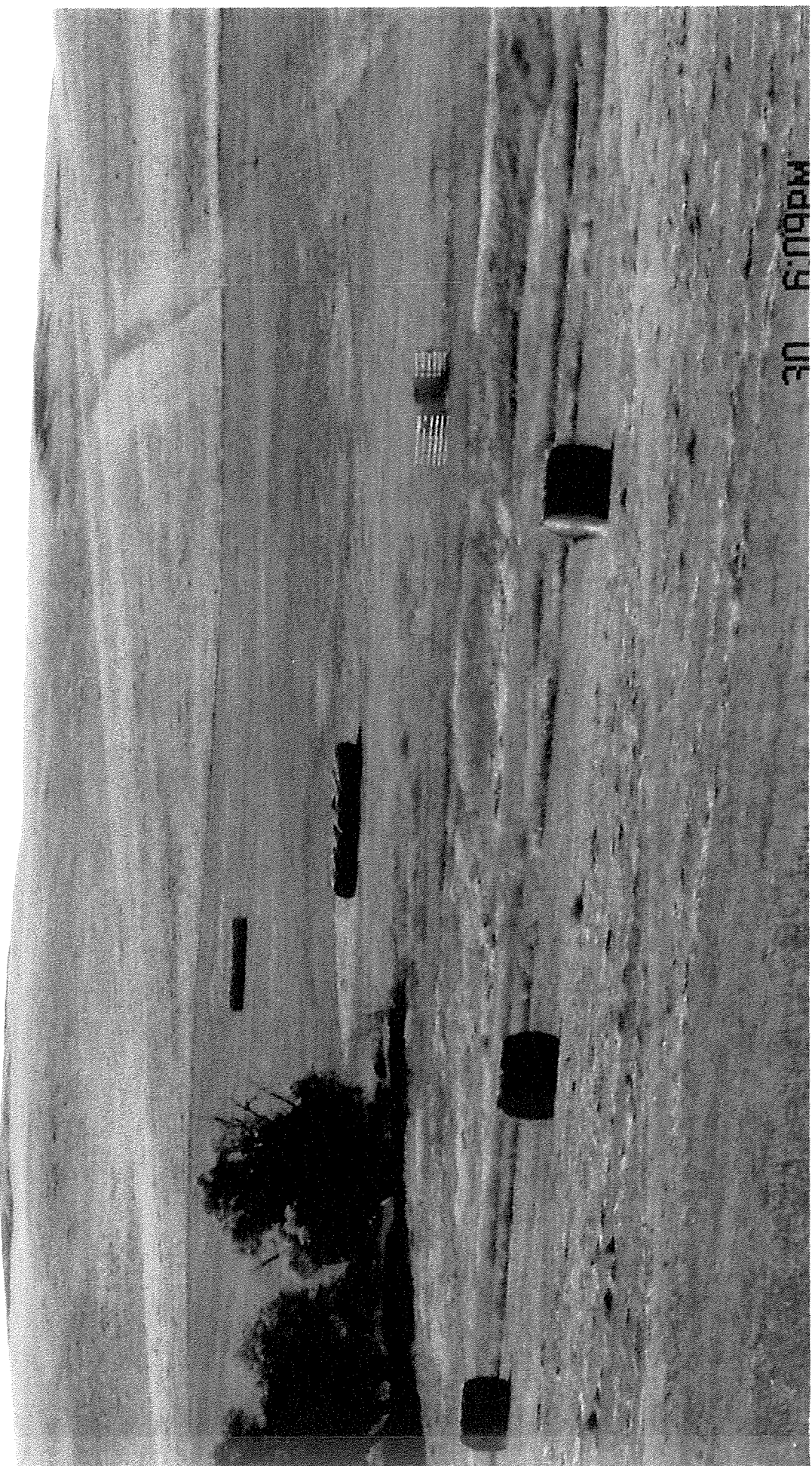
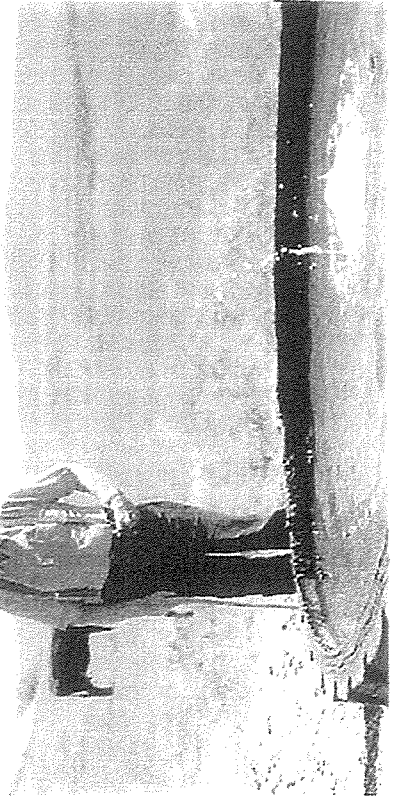
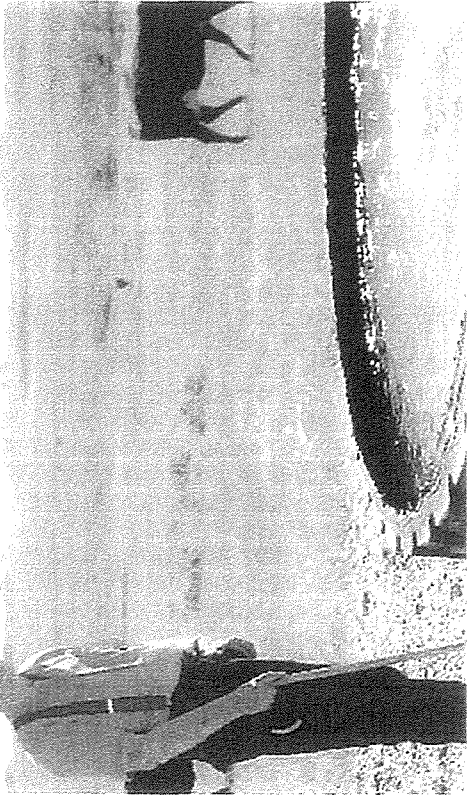
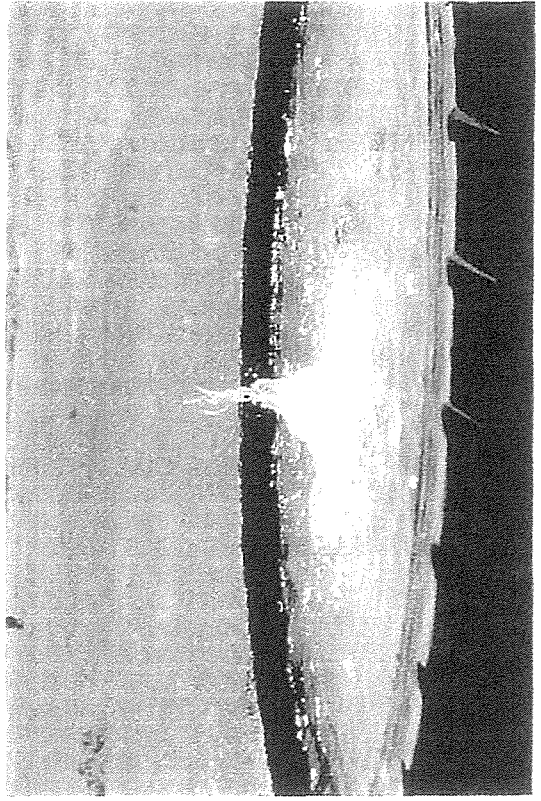
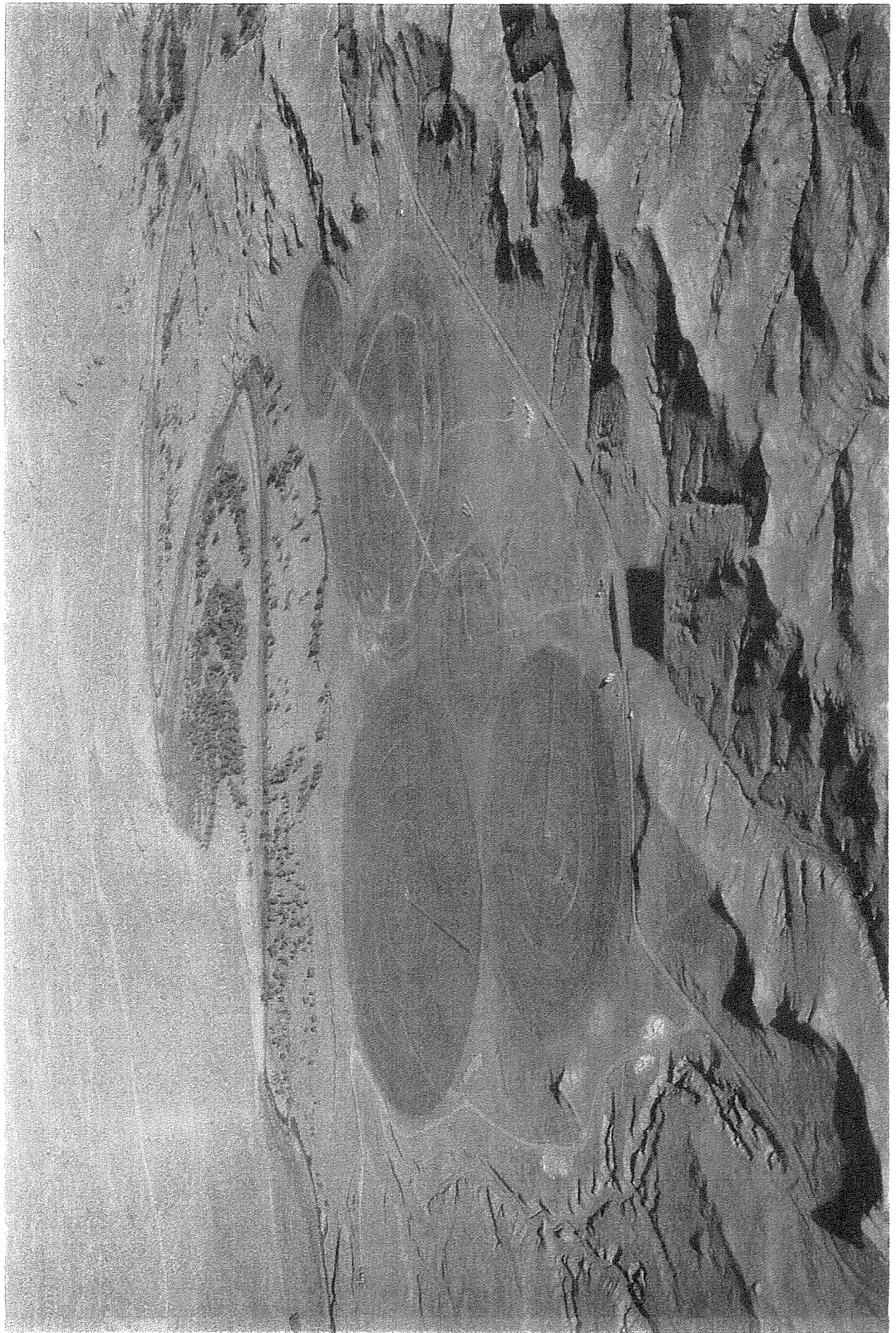


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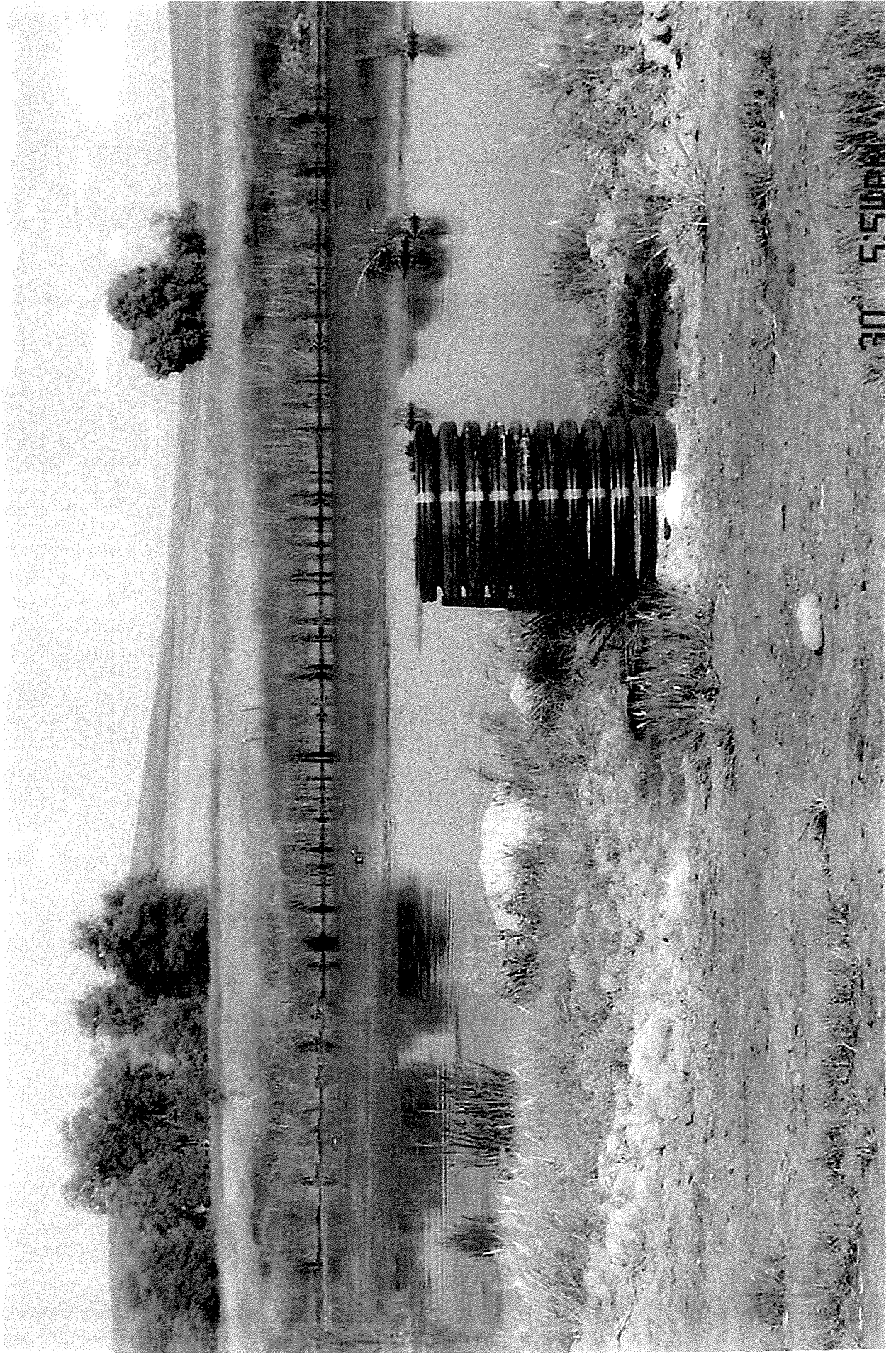
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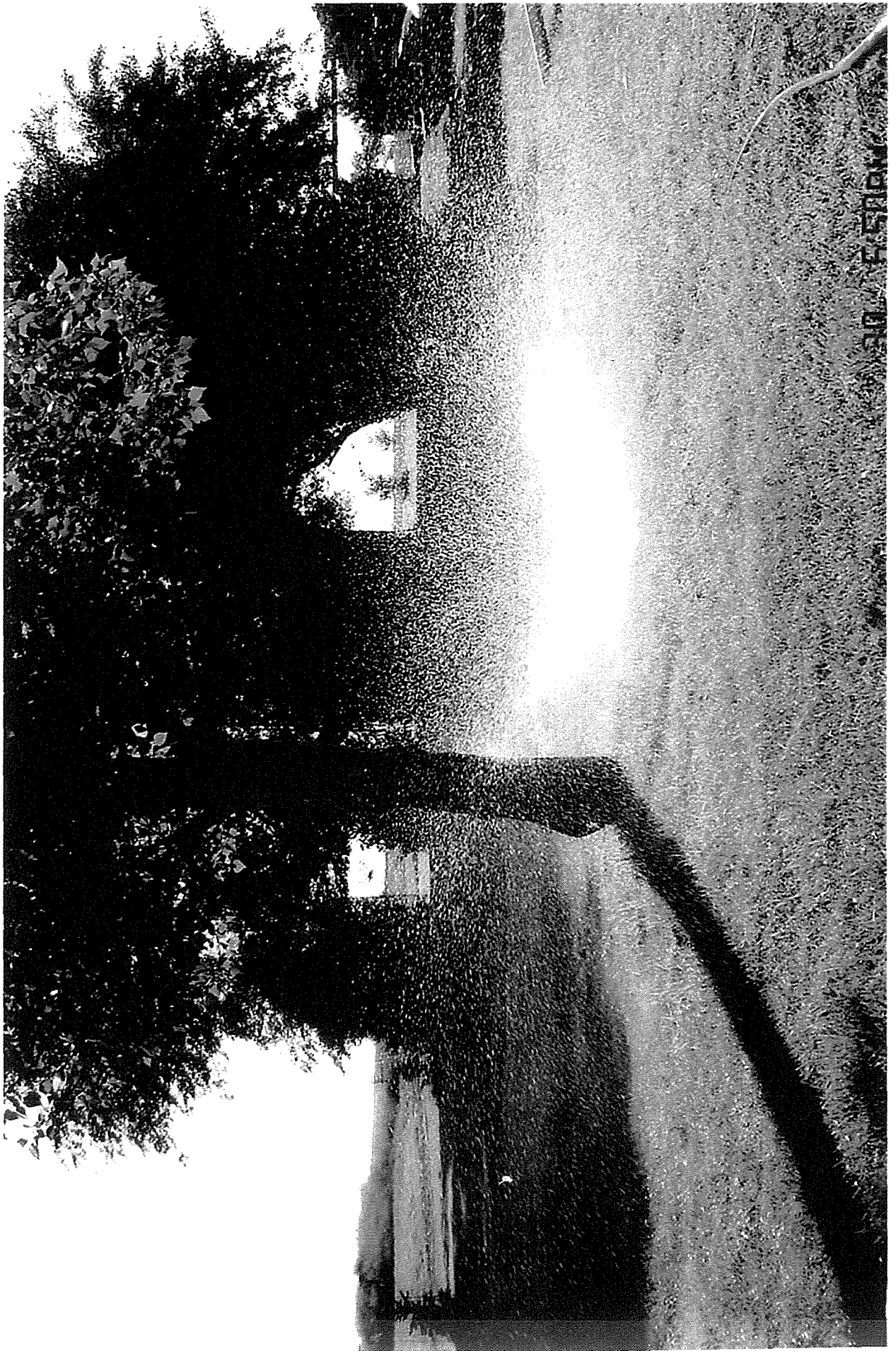
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MADE BY DE 30 6:20PM

Explanation of Preliminary Research
 Recommendations for Water Storage on Brug's Land
 Ashley Roberts~Yale University MEM Candidate

Revised 1-18-07

CMB water	SampleID	Sampled	pH	Electrical Conductivity (dS.m)	SAR_1	Calcium (meq/L)	Magnesium (meq/L)
yes	Brug Irrigated A	7/28/2006	6.6	0.39	4.57	0.49	0.26
yes	Brug Irrigated B	7/28/2006	6.1	0.22	1.75	0.41	0.31
yes	Brug Irrigated C	7/28/2006	5.9	0.32	1.04	0.76	0.76
no	Brug NOT Irrigated A	7/28/2006	5.8	0.17	0.15	0.58	0.43
no	Brug NOT Irrigated B	7/28/2006	5.6	0.14	0.27	0.45	0.35
no	Brug NOT Irrigated C	7/28/2006	5.7	0.21	0.71	0.55	0.52
no	Site #1 BitterCreek A	7/28/2006	7.3	0.82	0.12	4.59	2.14
no	Site #1 BitterCreek B	7/28/2006	7.5	0.71	0.18	4.23	1.87
no	Site #1 BitterCreek C	7/28/2006	7.6	0.49	0.36	2.58	1.29
no	Site #2 BitterCreek A	7/28/2006	7.5	0.66	0.09	4.38	1.7
no	Site #2 BitterCreek B	7/28/2006	7.6	1.01	0.21	6.56	3.65
no	Site #2 BitterCreek C	7/28/2006	7.6	2.69	0.47	21.1	13.9
no	Site #3 BitterCreek A	7/28/2006	7.1	0.79	0.07	5.13	1.97
no	Site #3 BitterCreek B	7/28/2006	7.2	0.85	0.27	5.12	2.25
no	Site #3 BitterCreek C	7/28/2006	7.4	0.73	0.44	3.9	1.9

VII. Recommendations for Brug water storage

Due to the higher pH of the soils in Bitter Creek versus the pH of the soils that are in the cultivated fields on Mr. Brug's property, careful consideration should be taken when making decisions about water storage. Given the nature of the changes in soils in Spotted Horse Creek after discharge in that area, I would recommend that a created wetland area would be the best design for this water storage project. An area of land, where future crop cultivation or cattle forage is not intended, should be identified for the water reservoir. The reservoir should be constructed in a manner, either lined or otherwise so that it will confine the water or recirculate the water in the specified area without leakage. Salt tolerant vegetation including

trees, grasses and shrubs could be planted and carefully monitored so that the vegetation does not become an invasive species problem. This area could become an area of created habitat for birds and other wetland species. If the wetland is created to specific guidelines, the Brug's could deduct the construction costs or the "loss of land" on their taxes to their benefit. I advise caution and careful research based on soils in this area because wetland creation is more than just digging a pond. A recirculation system would prevent stagnation of the created wetland and help reduce eutrophication, odor issues and mosquito infestation.

VIII. References

Andrew, Anita S. et al. 2005. Origin of salinity in produced waters from the palm valley gas field, Northern Territory, Australia. Applied Geochemistry. 20:727-747
 Aschenbach, T.A. 2006. Variation in growth rates under saline conditions of *Pascopyrum smithii* (Western wheatgrass) and *Distichlis spicata* (Inland saltgrass)

Adding nitrogen accelerates acidification (Brady and Weil 406). “Two moles of acidity are formed for every mole of ammonium nitrogen that undergoes nitrification to nitrates, use of ammonium fertilizers increase soil acidity” and can be increased from ammonia released by heavy manure application (Brady and Weil 574). Adding NH_3 can be problematic for soils by causing NH_4OH to form which increases pH as well (Brady and Weil 444).

Minimal leaching in arid areas minimizes the soil acidification process which is more rapid in moist, humid areas (Brady and Weil 413). Calcium, magnesium, potassium and sodium have a neutral effect on pH in water (Brady and Weil 413). Hydroxyl producing anions (negatively charged ions that raise the pH) are typically carbonate and bicarbonate (CO_3^{2-} and HCO_3^-) which in this case are mainly coming from CaCO_3 and MgCO_3 from the irrigation water (Brady and Weil 413).

High pH causes nutrient deficiencies for plants as well as osmotic potential making it harder for roots to extract water from the soil (Brady and Weil 430). Sodium competes with essential element potassium making it hard for plants to get the potassium they need when excess sodium is present (Brady and Weil 430). Enough calcium helps the plant differentiate between the competing elements (Brady and Weil 430).

The ratio of the ions can be just as important as the concentrations themselves (Brady and Weil 430). The carbon to nitrogen ration (C:N) ratio average is 12:1 in cultivated soils. Maintaining the proper ratio of C:N is important for proper plant growth (Brady and Weil 507)

Chart on page 706-7 about what different fertilizer impacts on soils may be of interest.

Source:

Brady, Nyle C. and Ray R. Weil. The Nature and Properties of Soils. 13th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2002. p. 31-44.

WS RANCH
Sheridan and Lindy Burgess
P.O.Box 80
Wyarno, WY 82845
January 17, 2007

Rec'd
1-18-07

Re: EQC Hearing on PRBRC Petition
Concerning proposed rule changes to Chapter 2 of
Wyoming's Water Quality Rules and Regulations

If it would please the Council, we request your consideration of the following points regarding the citizen's petition before you:

1. The petition was originally generated in 2005 and therefore uses assumptions which are not true today.
 - It quotes the price of gas @ \$9; today's actual is <\$3.50. \$3.50 is the breakeven for O&G in the PR Basin.
 - I know of no irrigation in our area, Sheridan County, which is not managed irrigation...ie treating the soil and/or water before application.
 - Industry is doing more than paying "lip service" to solve the problems of water disposal. See Huber's work with Beneterra subsurface drip which shows tremendous promise.
<http://www.beneterra.com/>
 - The current regulatory process is plenty tough. Here are excerpts from Huber's efforts on Prairie Dog Creek prior to 2002: (see source listed below)
 - 5 water well permits on BLM were held up for appeal in Washington
 - 3 NPDES permits were filed for on-channel ponds under

WDEQ Requirements to cover 100 wells. Only 2 of the 3 permits were granted.

- off-channel pits were permitted through the WOGCC. Engineering and construction Quality and Control issues were addressed to satisfy the permits. Monitoring wells were required to show non-degradation of the shallow aquifer. The aquifer had water of lower quality than the produced water so unlined pits were allowed.
- by 2001, permits for eight injection wells were sought, only six were permitted and 4 were drilled (deep injection wells Cost from \$400,000 to 3 million to drill)
In late 2001 new DEQ regulations caused Huber to stop using three of the four injection wells.
- the regulatory environment for discharge to surface streams was so strict that Huber did not pursue this option.

See Case studies of produced water management relative to CBM production p. 22-26:

http://www.all-llc.com/CBM/pdf/CBMBU/CBM%20BU%20Screen_Chapter%206%20Case%20Studies.pdf

These were all events which occurred with just one company in just one pod prior to the PRBRC petition....

Conclusion: the regulatory process is working!

2. There are figures in the Petition concerning effluent limits which are difficult to substantiate.

- I find no documentation from the University of Utah Extension service recommending the maximum **sulfate** level of 500 mg/l. Here's what I did find: (sources listed below)
 - **Utah State University Extension service:** limit 4500 mg/l
 - **SDSU:** limit 3500 mg/l
 - **Agri-Food Canada:** Change mineral ration at levels over 1000mg/l
 - **CSU-** no recommendation found
 - A Nebraska study found that sulfate levels of 1500 mg/l Sulfate in water actually improved avg daily gain for calves and milk production for cows once they became accustomed to it.
 - For *weaned calves*, the sulphur, not the sulfate, content is important because increase H₂S in the rumen of recently weaned calves can cause polioencephalomalacia...To arrive at the sulphur content for water, you divide sulfate by 3. The suggested maximum of sulphur to prevent polioencephalomalacia is 4000mg/l which would compute to 12,000 mg/l Sulfate and Sulfides combined. *Management issues for recently weaned calves should not effect water effluent limits statewide.*

Conclusion: Leave Wyoming's current limit of 2,000mg/l as is.

- **TDS recommendations are:**
 - SDSU, Utah State University, CSU, Agri-Food Canada:** All state 'up to 5,000 mg/l TDS satisfactory for livestock But may cause diarrhea'. Over 5,000 mg/l not recommended for lactating cows.

Conclusion: Wyoming's current limit is spot on.

Documentation of these points can be found at the following web addresses:

Utah State University recommendations:

http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/AH_Beef_28.pdf

South Dakota State University interpretation of water analysis for livestock suitability:

<http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/articles/ExEx2042.pdf>

Colorado State University livestock drinking water quality:

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/Pubs/livestk/04908.html>

University of Nebraska "Variability of water composition and potential impact on animal performance":

<http://www.das.psu.edu/dairynutrition/documents/sochawksh.pdf>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "livestock and water quality":

http://www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/water/livestck_e.htm

3. The EPA limit for **barium** in the nations drinking water is 2mg/l not .2mg/l as the petition and the proposed rule change state. The petitioner's may have been referring to EPA's reference dose (RfD) limit on Barium of .2mg/Kg/day. If so, it is well to note that EPA explains: 'a reference dose limit does not mean this exposure level is unsafe, but rather without appreciable risk'. The RfD is **not** a presumptive drinking water standard but rather the first step toward developing one under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The scientific uncertainty spans from 1/3rd the RfD to three times the RfD. In any case, if one used EPA's RfD limit for barium consumption of .2mg/kg/day, then a 1000 pound cow would be allowed 60 gallons of water at the 2mg/l EPA standard per day and a 180 pound rancher could safely consume 4 gallons of such water per day!
 - EPA explains that the drinking water standard of 2mg/l is the lowest Level to which water systems can reasonably be required to remove This substance from drinking water using today's technology.
 - because most Wyoming soils and CBM waters are alkaline, there is little chance that Barium would be present in anything but its insoluble form which means it poses virtually no risk to Wyoming's drinking water supply. The soluble compound, barium chloride, requires acidic conditions to mobilize into the water supply. Methane discharge waters are typically low in chloride and higher in sulfate and

bicarbonate. Therefore most barium would more readily exist as either insoluble barium sulfate or barium carbonate, neither of which would mobilize into the water supply. EPA's own study states that barium sulfate is largely insoluble and posed no threat to humans or animals and that barium carbonate was even more insoluble.

Conclusion -there is no foundation for taking action on the petitioner's request to change the Barium limits in Wyoming.

Documentation may be found at the following:

EPA consumer fact sheet on Barium:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/dw_contamfs/barium.html

EPA definition of a "reference dose":

http://www.epa.gov/fedfac/documents/perchlorate_qa.htm

EPA oral RfD summary for barium:


<http://www.epa.gov/iris/subst/0010.htm>

The Risk Assessment Information System toxicity summary for barium:

http://rais.ornl.gov/tox/profiles/barium_f_VI.shtml

We thank you for consideration of these points and wish you
Great prudence in your deliberations concerning this matter.

Thank you,



Sheridan and Lindy Burgess

FILED

JAN 18 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Untitled

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building , Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re Citizen Petition of the Powder River Basin Resource Council

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm opposed to any rulemaking that has been presented by a petition from the Powder River Basin Resource Council. I understand that the Governor has appointed a Coal Bed Methane Task Force to look at water issues and to make recommendations. I know their recommendations are not due until October 2007. I believe that you should let the process work and not make any rules until the task force has finished their work.

I want the ability to determine what I want to do with the water that is produced on my ranch. Also, I want the flexibility to be able to negotiate my surface use agreements without rules and regulations interfering in my business. As a general rule, I am opposed to government being in my business. We have rules now and they are working for the large majority of landowners and ranchers. I respectfully request that you deny the citizens petition and wait for the recommendations of the task force at the end of the year.

Sincerely,


Duane Odegard

PROSPECT LAND AND CATTLE CO. LLC
P. O. BOX 210
THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443
307-864-4224

Rec'd
1-18-07

Date: February 13, 2006

To: Mark Gordon, Chairman
Environmental Quality Council of Wyoming
Herschler Building, 1 West
122 West 25th Street, Room 1714
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Re: Comments Concerning the PRBRC Petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule Chapter 2, Appendix H and Agriculture Use Protection Policy.

Dear Sir:

My name is D. J. Hillbery, a 4th generation rancher in Hot Springs County, Wyoming and I recommend strongly that the petition submitted by the Powder River Basin Resource Council be denied due to the negative impact on my ranching operation, the environment including riparian areas, wildlife, etc., and most importantly the socio/economic impact on Hot Springs County.

Discussion:

- My ranch is located on Cottonwood creek and is highly dependent on surface discharge water from Merit Energy at Hamilton Dome Field. We use 4 to 6 cfs for irrigation purposes during the growing season and use the water for stock water purposes the remainder of the year. In as much as Cottonwood creek would be dry most of the year without the discharge water it would have a devastating economic and environmental effect on our operations. Not only would it take productive hay land out of production, but also create shortages of stock and wildlife water.
- The surface discharge water from the Hamilton Dome Field not only provides irrigation and stock water for all of lower Cottonwood but also maintains a live stream that provides habitat for aquatic and many other types of wildlife including deer, antelope, sage grouse, chukkar partridge, etc. With this active year around flow of water a viable riparian area is maintained for the full length of the creek. Therefore, this petition should be denied as it has been proven on the ground that the quality of water currently discharged supports the afore mentioned environment. A change in discharge water quality standards could make it un-economical to operate and continue this source of badly needed water. To lose this source of water would be unacceptable.

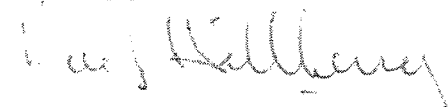
- The PRBRC petition should be denied due the disruption of many long term ranching families lives. These ranchers contribute to the community, provide for their families and care for the land. In addition to the devastation created by this disruption to those of us directly involved there will be a tremendous negative impact on the total economic structure of the county of Hot Springs. Schools will be impacted and services will be affected to an unrecoverable state.

In conclusion I would suggest that if there is a specific problem in the Powder River Basin concerning CBM discharge water in terms of quantity and quality it should be addressed as such and the Water discharge quality standards that exist today for oil and gas producers not be changed. These water quality standards have proven to be proper and appropriate for the quantities and quality of water being discharged. This has been proven on the ground and can be readily observed on Cottonwood creek.

Once again I submit that the PRBRC petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule Chapter 2, Appendix H be denied. In addition I would strongly urge that the existing verbiage in Chapter 1, Section 20 of the Agriculture Use Protection Policy be retained. There is no need to change a policy that has worked well for decades.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed amendment.

Sincerely yours,



Dee J. Hillberry
Owner/Manager
Prospect Land and Cattle Co. LLC

To Whom This May concern:

Regarding the release of water from the oilfields directly concerns us as beef producers. Our cattle depend on the water coming from the Sulpher Creek which comes from the Half Moon oilfield out of Cody, Wy. Water out here is not plentiful and without this stream we could not raise our cattle.

*Rec'd
1-18-07*

There are more far reaching effects than just our cattle being dependant on this particular water. This is the deer, elk, antelope and various other kinds of wildlife. This is the only water available to sustain these creatures. So to stop releasing this water would be detrimental in so many ways. Whenever we have had any question regarding the water's quality, all we have had to do is call the oil company and they immediatley test the water and if there is any adjustments needed they take of it.

Thank You for listening as this is extremely important to us and our way of life and our income.

Pete and Darleen Scripps
221 Half Moon Road
P.O. Box 130
Cody, Wy. 82414
307-527-7337

January 5, 2007

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street
Herschler Building, Room 1714
Cheyenne WY 82008

Dear Sirs:

“What works for a rancher or farmer in Sheridan County may not work for a Campbell County landowner.”

In the past six years I have had a lot of experience with Coal Bed Natural Gas development on my 3500 deeded acres 500 of which is irrigated and I lease 1500 acres from the State of Wyoming. All development is complete and I am pleased to report that it was less disruptive that I had anticipated.

Three companies, Fidelity, J.M. Huber and Pennaco/Marathon, are now producing, transporting, and selling CBNG from my land. Because of the unknown effects of the water being produced and used on pastures and crop lands, originally I had elected to have all the water removed from my property to my neighbors property who were more than willing to put it to use growing hay for their cattle.

My lands have water rights that date back to 1884 and enough stored (high mountain) water to survive almost any drought condition. My neighbors are not as fortunate and rely heavily on this produced water. Their adjudicated water rights are about 1/16th of my water right and they need this produced water to survive.

Having seen how well these three companies managed this water, I have to ask to have it put to use on my own ranch.

A seventy acre pivot was erected on a pasture of mine and Pennaco began putting water on this last summer. The drought conditions at that time were the worst I had ever seen in the thirty plus years on this ranch. No rain from May 15th to September 15th. This water was a welcome sight and immediately began to grow green grass. Anóther issue from the drought was the lack of stock water. My reservoirs completely evaporated and the situation became so serious that it looked like I would have to sell fifty percent of my two hundred and fifty cow herd.

Fidelity, J.M. Huber and Pennaco/Marathon all put stock tanks in areas that better distributed my cattle than any thing I had had prior to development. With these stock tanks in remote locations throughótt my pastures the grass actually improved because the cattle were more evenly dispersed.

Rec'd
1-18-07

I find these companies to be responsible and reliable in working with landowners on these important water issues.

Please do not place additional restrictions on the way they handle this water. The country needs the gas and landowners appreciate the water.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

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

Tom Koltiska
Hat Curved Arrow Ranch

Madam Chairman, Members of the Committee

I rise in opposition to the

Citizens Petition, I stand
in Campbell County south of Lenoir
and we have had considerable methane
development in our place for the last

8 years. We have worked with
6 or now 10 different oil & gas
companies. We have managed our

contracts & our dealings privately
with industry without ^{restriction} government
intervention. We wish it to
stay that way.

Having said that I speak
for the 100's of landowners, workers
& citizens of Wyo that are in opposition
to ~~that~~ this as well as wish this
to be entered into the record!

Rec'd
1-18-07

WE WANT OUR WATER!

Rec'd
1-18-07

We are the landowners and people affected every day by the development of Coalbed Natural Gas (CBNG) in Wyoming.

We oppose the Environmental Quality Council's (EQC) unfounded adoption of the Powder River Basin Resource Council's proposed amendments to the Wyoming water quality rules, as these changes are an infringement on private property rights. They are also unrealistic and constitute a government intervention without just compensation.

We respect the current reasonable water regulations, which include the wide variety of beneficial uses for CBNG water. We do not support changes to these regulations that would intrude upon private property rights, and possibly, our own well-being.

We understand the variation in water quality across the Powder River Basin and Wyoming firsthand. We can tell you that a blanket rule or "one size fits all" solution regulating CBNG water will not work.

We call instead for the EQC and other Wyoming regulatory bodies to utilize the wide variety of water management techniques that exist and continue to grow. This approach works best to meet the needs of landowners, operators, and the environment.

X - If you have CBNG development on your land - please put an X in front of your name.

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
1	X Jean Dew	2426 Angus Dr. Gillette	682-3329	
2	X Luba Waggoner	2563 Upper Powder River Rd.	736-2459	
3	X D. M. L. L.	2563 Upper Powder River Rd.	736 2459	
4	Wendy Johnson	246 Foothills Circle		686-7782
5	L. M. Phillips	2400 Ft. Hills Blvd		660-0072
6	X Thomas S. Kasser	604 Fullerton		684-8632
X 7	Fredy Mackay	275 Jones Rd. Gillette		682-1219
8	R. M. L.	301 Allen 40	689-2783	natalie@jcn.com
X 9	James W. W.	2000 Hwy 50	682-8551	
X 10	Pat Lutton	5925 Hwy 59 S Gillette, WY	82718 (307) 939-1289	
X 11	Jane Lutton	5925 Hwy 59 S Gillette, WY	82718	LYRanah@com

- X 12 Terry Rassbach 305 Black + Yellow Ad Gillette WY 686-3818
- X 13 David Geer Box 2018 Gillette WY 464-1509
- X 14 ~~Wendy Wassbach~~
- 15 R. Hoff 2940 Hwy 50 Gillette WY 686-8655
- X 16 Vona Roush
- 17 Cecilia Bell
- X 18 Jaracki, Jean Davis 218 Sheridan Rd. Bellefonte WY
- X 19 Vermaalen, Wilbert 3934 Hwy 50 Gillette WY
- X 20 Margaret Gumpert 39 Saunders St. Gillette
- X 21 Walter L. Spivey 1945 Hwy 50 Gillette
- X 22 Donald E. King 128 Clarkston Rd. Gillette, WY 82718
- X 23 Jay Lynn Vande P.O. Box 62 Arvada WY 82531
- X 24 Jeff Foreman Box 56 Arvada WY 82531
- X 25 Scott Lutterman P.O. Box 562 Buffalo WY 82834

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X - If you have CBNG development on your land – please put an X in front of your name.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
1 <input type="checkbox"/> JEFF HOWE	2604 LODDALL AVE	682-11646	JHOWE@YPCG.COM
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Brenda Meece	PO Box 2560	682-4638	bmeece@ypcg.com
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Rob Hamlet	907 Trail Circle	689-5063	rjhamlet@yahoo.com
4 <input type="checkbox"/> GREG HESELTINE	811 RIDGEWOOD DR	6-3600	GREGH@YPCG.COM
5 <input type="checkbox"/> Tammy Bauman	1001 Desert Hills	299-3417	jjet88@msn.com
6 <input type="checkbox"/> Todd Mattson	201 W. Redwood	680-8533	toddm@ypl.com
7 <input type="checkbox"/> Justin Kosowowski	#1 bounded rd	480-8141	Justin@yfg.com
8 <input type="checkbox"/> CASSIDY WESTBROOK	1215 MIDDLE FORK DR	686-7796	CWESTBROOK@YPCG.COM
9 <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Christensen	P.O. Box 1269 Gillette	939-1295	
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11			
12			

WE WANT OUR WATER!

Rec'd
1-18-07

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X - If you have CBNG development on your land - please put an X in front of your name.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
1 Tim Barber	1208 willowbrook	307-685-8423	tbarber@ypeg.com
2 X Saundra Phillips	P.O. Box 1103	660-3836	sphillos@ypeg.com
3 Trent Kay	P.O. Box 3857	307 685-8420	tkay@ypeg.com
4 Jeb Tachick	3209 Sutherland	299-05902	JTachick@ypeg.com
5 Billie Underwood	1410 High Ct	307-686-1774	bunderwood@ypeg.com
6 Tony Wyllie	6700 Steepy Hollow	307-686-8605	wyllie10@brcsman.net
7 Roy Bellew	3201 Scheltn Rd	(307)685-1240	dampriincess@brcsman.net
8 SCOTT FAIRFIELD	6807 ANDRE CT	(307)687-7597	sfairfield@ypeg.com
9 Ken Menster	1680W Warlow Apt 106	307-696 4922	KMenster@YPEG.COM
10 JACK STANDEFUR	20 FRANKLIN OYE	307.685.0023	jstandefur@ypeg.com
11 Rob Hamlet		307-685-8402	
12 Nick Fields	5401 Stone Trail	307 682-4042	nfields@ypeg.com

Rec'd
1-18-07

- 13X Stacy Kolaski 4550 Centennial Rd. 686-1357 Skolaski@ypeg.com
- 14 Miranda Irby 1007 Santee Drive 685-0423 mirby@ypeg.com
- 15 Bob Irwin 4 Fawn Court 686-8660 birwin@ypeg.com
- 16 Frank Carlson 813 Pioneer Ave 687-0301 fcarlson@ypeg.com
- 17X Susan James P.O. Box 2813 686-7271 SusieQ-james@yahoo.com
- 18 Brenda Meier 2702 Meadow Ln 686-3611
- 19 Stan Smith 2901 Knowlwood Dr, Gillette 682-5358 smitch@ypeg.com
- 20X L.D. Gilbert 1743 Lake of Yellow R. Gillette 685-8431 ldgilbert@ypeg.com
- 21 Dennis Camino 29255 6th Hwy 87 Bufgaha 684-9273 dcamino@ypeg.com
- 22 Jodi Burch 3 David Ave. Gillette WY 6020-1176 jburcun@ypeg.com
- 23 Jeff Howe 2601 LODDALL AVE. GILLETTE WY 682-1646 HOWE - JEFF@hotmail.com
- 24 CASSIOM WESTBROOK 1215 MIDDLE FORK DRIVE 686-7796 cswestbrook@hotmail.com
- 25 BUSTEX IVORY PO Box 2898 689-2191 bivory@bresnan.net
- 26 Crystal Walker 6407 Tassel Ave. Gillette 6810-6988 cwalker@ypeg.com
- 27 Mike Stevens 160 Fitch Rd. Gillette WY 682-4399 JodiGoTo@VCA
- 28 Terry Matchin 46X Fairview RD Gillette WY 682-7644 terrymate@vca.com
- 29 Terry Plumb 4309 OLIVE AVE. GILLETTE WY 682-6963 TerryPlumb@vca.com
- 30 Paul Clifford P.O. Box 3457 Gillette, WY 682-2208
- 31 Brock Schell 209 Elkwood St Gillette, WY 685-6613
- 32 David J. Vigil Jr 4205 Dade Rd Gillette WY 680-8152
- 33 David Tate 3304 Waterbaugh Gillette, WY 660-9351
- 34X Mike Stein 2606 S. Emerson Gillette WY 299-0595
- 35 Don NVOGRO P.O. Box 4007 GILLETTE, WY 82717 680-9965 NVOGRO Don@vca.com
- 36 Robbin Pulliam 300 W Laurel Gillette, WY 82718 680-3003
- 37 Boyd Abelseth 503 E Laramie Gillette WY 82716 660 4630
- 38 Jim Nies Box 3705 Gillette WY 82718 682-5502
- 39 MICHAEL BARNES 710 S. MAIN MURDO, SD 57559 mikebarnes@hotmail.com
- 40 Charles Petty 6904 Greensburg Gillette WY 82718 307 696 8072
- 41 GREG HESELTINE 811 RIDGEWOOD DR GILLETTE 82716 GHESELTINE@YPEG.COM
- 42 Jim Gabriel 1047 N Hwy 14-14 Gillette, WY 82716 686-3007
- 43 Cody Iverson 913 Ridgewood Gillette WY 82716 689-5810
- 44 Julie Jahner 2917 Harder Dr. Gillette, WY 82718 660-0356
- 45 ~~Mark E. Fitzgerald~~ 904 E. 9th St Gillette, WY 82716 mfitzgerald@bresnan.net
- 46 Jerry Bunn Box 3245 Gillette WY 686-8291
- 47

Rec'd
11-18-07

WE WANT OUR WATER!

We are the landowners and people affected every day by the development of Coalbed Natural Gas (CBNG) in Wyoming.

We oppose the Environmental Quality Council's (EQC) unfounded adoption of the Powder River Basin Resource Council's proposed amendments to the Wyoming water quality rules, as these changes are an infringement on private property rights. They are also unrealistic and constitute a government intervention without just compensation.

We respect the current reasonable water regulations, which include the wide variety of beneficial uses for CBNG water. We do not support changes to these regulations that would intrude upon private property rights, and possibly, our own well-being.

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X- If you have CBNG development on your land - please put an X in front of your name.

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
X	1 Chris Knudson	2909 Tipperary Rd Arvada, WY	736-2331	CKKNUDSON@vcn.com
	2 Alex R Mantle	14 Burger Lane Buffalo	684-5933	armantle@vcn.com
	3 Charles Thompson	577 N. Burritt Buffalo	684-5969	
	4 Kay Stenland	245 Hwy 2 Buffalo Wyo		kstenland@vcn.com
X	5 Lori Knudson	2909 Tipperary Rd Arvada WY	82831	
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Rec'd
1-18-07

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	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
X 1	James T. Hardesty	Box 51 Wyoming	737-2244	
X 2	Daniel P. Little	Box 173, Lexter, Wyo	758-4319	
X 3	Bob Douglas	Sheridan Wyo	737-2222	
4	Al Schuff	Sheridan Wyo	751-6028	
5	William Jensen	Sheridan WY	674-6377	
6	Stan Quade	Sheridan Wyo	751-8062	
7	Bob Balch	Sheridan, WY	752 6495	
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WE WANT OUR WATER!

Rec'd
7-18-07

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	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
1	Stephanie Monte	P.O. Box 383 Dayton	307-655-9713	redbuttes@fiberpipe.net
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WE WANT OUR WATER!

Rec'd
1-18-07

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	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
1	Law Koltisko	546 Cat Creek Rd.	737-2212	
2	X Gary Koltisko	120 Cat Creek Rd Sheridan	737-2272	
3	Warren W. Adams	235 Cat Creek Rd	737-2429	
4	Trenton D. Adams	226 Cat Creek Rd	737-2490	
5	X M. B. Brinkhoff	595 L.P.D. Rd Sheridan WY	750-2408	
6	X Neil Brinkhoff	479 L.P.D. Rd Sheridan WY	750-2243	
7	Norma C. Malli	P.O. Box 26	ARVADO, WY	736-2424
8	Riley Malli	Box J	Arvada Wyo	736-2242
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WE WANT OUR WATER!

Filed
1-18-07

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	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
X 1	Charley E Helmer	FS 3rd St.	179-6287	
2	Lorna Jones	1209 N Gould Sheridan	674-6655	
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WE WANT OUR WATER!

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
1 Row + Jayne Barnes	PO Box 642, Big Horn, WY 82833	672.5755	rsbarnes@
2 ANGELA & JOEL DAVIDSON	PO BOX 936, SHERIDAN, WY 82801	674-1867	angela.davidson@ ^{FBI REPORT} hotmail.com
3 Bernie + Robin Olson	207 Sherman, Sheridan, WY 82801	751-9168	windrivermtns@yahoo.com
4 Andrew Mellinger	354 1st W Parkway	82801 674.1708	amellingercpa@gmail.com
5 Luke + Clarke Hanson	439 Smith, Sheridan WY 82801	655-5292	Hanson22@hotmail.com
6 Tommy Davis	140 S. Linden Apt. 6	Sheridan, WY 82801	752-2623 tom+davis10@hotmail.com
7 SHERL AMES	16 S. THURMOUTH ST, Sheridan, WY 82801	751-0483	
8 Zane + Cary Durham	420 Beaver Creek Road, Sheridan WY 82801	2durham@	libermax.net
9 Loli + Curt Fulbright	2855 S. RAILROAD, Banner, WY 82832	14rling@	fulbright@hotmail.com
10 Larry + Deb Ruhoff	1325 Taylor Ave	Sheridan, WY 82801	2ruhoffs@bresnan.net
11 Pat + Linda Stroud	PO Box 6865 Sheridan, WY 82801	307.673.4322	solutions@stroud.net
12 Brent Marchant	126 Upper Rd	Sheridan, WY	bdmarchant@vsn.com

Rec'd 1-18-07

- 13 Anna Kaley & Doug Kaley 501 Stone Pl. Sheridan, 751-7450
- 14 Ryan + Barbara Gregory 823 AIRPORT RD, SHERIDAN 751-2666
- 15 Lena M Williams #16 E. Brundage Ln., 674-7149 Sheridan, WY.
- 16 Michael H. Trout 1486 Stadium Dr. Sheridan 82801 655-5454 mptrout@aol.com
- 17 Michael + Valerie Peck 700 S. Desert Blvd., WY 82834, 751-2649 mitepeck48@hotmail.com
- 18 ~~Scott Adam~~ 1811 Prairieview Dr., Sheridan, WY 82801 751-8234
- 19 HARL + STEPHANIE EPRICH 15 PIPER ROAD, 82801
- 20 J. Scott Lewis 508 W. Works, Sheridan, WY 82801 752-7097
- 21 M.E. McKamy P.O. Box 241 West St. WY 82801 mckamy@montana.com
- 22 Chelle Bowman 826 Clarendon Ave, Sheridan, WY 82801 chellebowman@hotmail.com
- 23 Brian + Jennifer DeRullo, 1489 HURON DR, SHERIDAN WY 82801 751-2003 bdeullo@photos.com
- 24 J.L. + Talyan Griffin 1387 Cove Ct. Sheridan WY. 82801 (307) 673-1621
- 25 TED GARDNER 1340 TAYLOR AVE., SHERIDAN, WY 82801 Tgardner@brennan.net
- 26 Peter C. Schuurman 12 Woodland Park Road Sheridan WY
- 27 Sarah Kinde 715 S. Thurmond Sheridan, WY (307) 423-0375
- 28 Charles Agnes/Trevino 237 Peffer Ave Sheridan WY (307) 751-0681
- 29 Rob + Lori Kinde 705 S. Thurmond Sheridan, WY 82801
- 30 Jaci + Chuck Cutforth 216 Park St. Sheridan WY 752-0430
- 31 Emly + Josh Dillaway 905 Gladstone Sheridan WY 751-2702.
- 32 Debby Huske P.O. Box 585 Big Horn, WY 82833 674-0292
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WE WANT OUR WATER!

Rec'd
1-18-07

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
1 Rozzie Ten Eyck	808 W10 th	(307) 686-8694	rozzielt@hettingerwelding.com
2 X Lee C. Phillips	P.O. Box 1103	307 660-3836	LPhillips@hettingerwelding.com
3 X GERALD ROBINSON	6765 Hwy 59 South	307-464-0665	GROBINSON@hettingerwelding.com
4 X WANDA Edwards	6765 Hwy 59 South	307-660-4575	taco@intriq.com
5 Barbara Pilon	1314 Overdale Dr.	686-2639	bpilon@hettingerwelding.com
X 6 Sande Phillips	315 Sage Hill Rd	660-660-3836	
7 Jane Datisman	P.O. Box 87 Rozet, WY	307-686-0353	
8 Sarah Baer	3308 Alberta Dr	307-687-1792	gbaer@hettingerwelding.com
9 Blandy Baer	3308 Alberta Dr.	307-687-1792	hbaer@hettingerwelding.com
10 Lisa Baer	1404 Helena Ave	307-299-6951	SK@wyomingchic.com
11 Lisa Baer	1700 West ^{4th} 10th	307 680-3995	
12 X Mark Haight	9340 Hwy 59	307 682-3541	

- 13 Ray Ball 1012 S. Slenden Ave Slenden WY 82801
- 14 Katy Putnam 1801 E Warlow #54 Gillette 660-1916 KPutnam@netting.com
- 15 Michelle S Blissard 111 Procdull Valley Rd. Gillette WY 82716-686-8645
- 16 Chris Dewito 144 4-J Road Gillette, WY 82716
- 17 Dave Eisenberger P.O. Box 166 Rozet WY 82727, 307-297-1326
- 18 Billy W. Sand 165 Helena Road Gillette WY 82716 604 570 0362
- 19 ANDREW GABRIEL 1609 Bois-Ave Gillette 685-2693

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WE WANT OUR WATER!

By 1-15-07

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	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Lora	700 W. Wagon	686-3047	
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Jackson	3500 Bird Dr.	680-2514	
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Jackson	3500 Bird Dr.	299-5694	
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Paulsen	1000 ROHAN	GILLETTE	682-5347
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	11	11
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doni Rudolph	4381 Sundance Pt.	Gillette, WY 82718	687-1507
7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Momi Licher	4516 Wilson Hwy	Billings	680-5914
8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1202 Hilltop	680-2522	
9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8100 A. Michigan	689-6812	
10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lynn Redwood	304 W Redwood	689-3727	
11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		299-3563	
12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Johnson	602 E. 6TH #2	299-8174	

- 13 Tom Reynolds Sospetter Ave 686-6030
- 14 Dan Williams South Fork 686-3702
- 15 Andre Chris Castillo Sierra Circle 685-8184
- 16 Derek Kent 500 S Church #52 686-0257
- 17 Larry Ahtenberg 149 Sierra Cir 686-6450
- 18 Brian Dean #7 Newport
- 19 Michael Clark 1605 ECHETA 686-3092
- 20 Ed Smith 62 Constitution #A 660-7802
- 21 Arturo Barrera 818 5TH Lot. #7 299-3615
- 22 J.M. Jones 1200 Skywheel Lane 307-682-0363
- 23 Nancy Nause 1112 Clarion 307-686-1943
- 24
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FILED

JAN 18 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Untitled

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building , Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re Citizen Petition of the Powder River Basin Resource Council

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm opposed to any rulemaking that has been presented by a petition from the Powder River Basin Resource Council. I understand that the Governor has appointed a Coal Bed Methane Task Force to look at water issues and to make recommendations. I know their recommendations are not due until October 2007. I believe that you should let the process work and not make any rules until the task force has finished their work.

I want the ability to determine what I want to do with the water that is produced on my ranch. Also, I want the flexibility to be able to negotiate my surface use agreements without rules and regulations interfering in my business. As a general rule, I am opposed to government being in my business. We have rules now and they are working for the large majority of landowners and ranchers. I respectfully request that you deny the citizens petition and wait for the recommendations of the task force at the end of the year.

Sincerely,


Micheal Odegard



A duck in the discharge water approximately 3/4 mile downstream from the discharge point
8/18/06



The discharge water at the point where it enters Gooseberry Creek. 8/18/06



Gooseberry Creek 1/2 mile above where the discharge water enters Gooseberry Creek. 8/18/06
(dry)



Beaver ponds 1/4 mile downstream from where discharge water enters Gooseberry Creek 8/18/06

FILED

January 26, 2007

JAN 26 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality CouncilWyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY. 82002

Dear Councilman,

My name is Saunda Phillips and I live fifteen miles West of Gillette, Wyoming. My husband and I were transferred here with his job in the Energy industry seventeen years ago. We came to Gillette under the premise that we would only be here for three to five years. Much time has passed and on three different occasions when other advancement opportunities to relocate other places came up we always made the decision to stay in Gillette. We laugh about it occasionally when the wind is blowing 35 miles per hour and it is 5 degrees below zero but the cold hard fact remains that we love it here and obviously wouldn't change locations for anything.

In 2000 the CBM industry was knocking on our door. We were told our little slice of heaven was about to become home to a CBM development. Imagine the rage, the fear, the intimidation, of dealing with development that was unknown to our part of county and truly much unregulated at that time. As landowners my husband and I were at odds. He, being loyal to his calling in the Energy field, told me to relax and get along and sign a document giving some strangers the right of ingress and egress on our private surface. I was angry and on the fight for weeks. I insisted that the Operator put in our Surface Use Agreement very strong language about monitoring both our domestic well and the methane discharge water. After much discussion with the Operator as well as water and soil specialists we came to an agreement. The Operator came on the surface to drill the wells and put in the infrastructure. I sulked in the background still licking my wounds and waiting for the first hint of something to go wrong. Nothing went wrong!!! They came in, did the work they needed to do and left. The Operator and the subcontractors were very respectful and conscientious of our property and our livestock. We are not fee mineral owners, we are not land barons, and we are not even compensated all that well for our surface in comparison to today's normal surface damage payments but..... **WE HAVE WATER!!** Water has probably even added appraisal value to our little slice of heaven.

I have recently been made aware of the **Petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix H**. I am sympathetic to the Powder Basin Resource Council led by nineteen individuals who feel like they have been put upon by the CBM Industry. However, I am not willing to stand by and watch as nineteen individuals ruin the economic lives of thousands of people. Many people in Campbell County and the Powder River Basin have lived thru the "booms and busts" of this fragile economy. The stakes have been raised now. As I read the petition I have to laugh and cry in the same minute. The water provided by the City of Gillette to its inhabitants would be considered "polluted" water by the PRBRC standards. Most livestock and wildlife should have already expired if in fact barium, sulfates, and total dissolved solids play that much into the "polluted" water standards. Having an animal husbandry background and a very thorough knowledge of most of the livestock producers in the area, I can safely say that the water quality has not endangered herd health. In fact it is the drought conditions the last six years that has been oppressive to livestock producers. In fact those livestock producers that did not have the luxury of "beneficial use" of CBM water in various locations so that they could manage their pastures in this time of drought were some of the first to have to make drastic cuts to their livestock herds.

It is refreshing to find that the PRBRC has some solutions to the CBM discharge water quandary but the alternatives fall short of real world application. Reinjection may have worked in the San Juan Basin in Colorado and New Mexico but Wyoming geology is far different and so is the water. Water treatment as a solution still demands a discharge permit, if the PRBRC wants to regulate the quantity of water that moves down the drainage also how is the Operator ever rewarded for treating the water? Soil treatment has also been tried by a number of Operators in the Basin with very limited success. In fact soil conditioning treatments have just proven to us that we do not have soil in Wyoming, just plain old dirt.

In conclusion I beg of you, as an impartial, responsible Councilman to find the **Petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix H** unacceptable. The economic impact would be devastating not only to the area but also to the State. Literally thousands of lives would be affected. I believe most Operators in the region are doing the best they can managing CBM water discharges. Operators are facing rule changes and regulatory pressures from half a dozen government agencies everyday. I believe the petition is rigid and unforgiving somewhat like the individuals that are willing to burden thousands of people with inflated claims of land and livestock damage while in the same minute they are hypocritical enough to take those CBM surface damage payments to the bank and cash them.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.

Respectfully,

Saanda Phillips

January 29, 2007

Carol Ann Malli
PO Box 16
5521 US Hwy 14-16
Arvada, WY 82831-0016
Phone: 307-736-2423
Fax: 307-736-2301

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JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Building, Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Fax: 307-777-6134

Dear Mr. Gordon:

I am writing about the revised petition from the PRBRC. Being a rancher I have seen the good things the CBM discharges have done for the ranchers. The water has been used for reservoirs and stock tanks in pastures we have not been able to use because of the drought.

It doesn't seem reasonable, that a small group of people can speak for the majority of the ranchers and farmers, involved with CBM. Surely, the DEQ and WQD are doing their job as to the quality and quantity of the discharges when giving permits for them.

Our cattle and horses have been drinking this water for quite awhile and they seem to be okay, as does the wildlife also.

The CBM industry has helped the economy from state level on down to private citizens. There are more jobs and opportunities for everybody. I certainly don't feel threatened by any of it. Where there are problems the people and the CBM industry could find some common ground and work towards a solution to it.

Sincerely,


Carol Ann Malli

January 29, 2007

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Don C. & Betty Ann Malli
P.O. Box 66
600 Arvada Gillette Road
Arvada, WY 82831-0066
Phone: 307-736-2376
Fax: 307-736-2377
E-Mail: dandbmali@rangeweb.net

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Building, Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Fax: 307-777-6134

Dear Mr. Gordon:

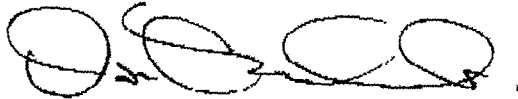
In response to the Citizen Petition for Rule Making, revised version WQD Chapter 2:

As 4th generation ranchers, contractors and Mineral owners, we have some concerns about the language and ramifications of the petition before your committee.

1. As ranchers we would not have been able to survive the last eight (8) years of drought without CBM water in our water tanks and reservoirs.
2. In our case the CBM water has been managed responsibly by our operators with full cooperation with to maximize the benefits of water.
3. As for the petitioners in this action, I know for a fact, that certain one(s) have had offers by the industry to remediate their problems and have been denied access to do the work. Also, it seems that some of the petitioners admittedly do not even have current CBM issues.
4. The statement on page three (3) of the petition that "Every ranch and farm operation is threatened by CBM discharge water." Is at the very least quite presumptuous and does not speak for any sort of majority in our area. Speaking for ourselves, feelings threatened is an extreme over statement.

5. In a democratic society, I'm somewhat shocked that 11 people can bring about rules that do tremendous harm to countless agriculture industries. I was always under the assumption, in our society, the majority overruled the minority.
6. In closing, I understand there are some isolated issues which need to be addressed and should be, but I don't believe hundreds of other folks should pay the price for dealing with these issues, by eliminating our individual use of CBM water for Agricultural and wildlife beneficial use.

Thank you for your time,



Don C. and Betty Ann Malli

January 29, 2007

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking - Powder River Basin Resource Council et al-
Revised Version - WQD Chapter 2

Dear Mr. Gordon:

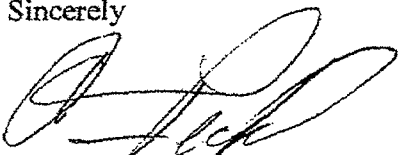
My name is Clinton Pickrel and I am part of a sizable family ranch corporation in N.E. Wyoming. Our ranch runs livestock on over 100,000 acres and we have been involved with the CBM both as surface and royalty owners. I have read both the above mentioned petition and the letter from Mr. Wagner who represents the DEQ. While I share the same desire to be a careful and attentive steward of the abundant natural resources on our ranch as the petitioners do, I am also aware of the impact that the Oil & Gas Industry has upon our economy.

According to Mr. Wagner's letter "*The language in the revised petition would prohibit any CBM discharge if there were any physical, chemical, or biological alterations to the receiving water caused by the discharge. The petition goes on to state that no discharge may cause the release of any "chemical or chemical compound" (only distilled water meets this definition). There is probably no case where a CBM discharge would be able to meet all of the conditions of this section of the proposed rule. It is a standard to which no other industry or type of discharger is being held.*" This statement causes me considerable concern because of the detrimental effect this would have on our local economy affecting Landowners as well as the CBM Industry.

It is also my understanding that the Attorney General's office has repeatedly cautioned against this petition and the rule it proposes, and that the EQC would be wise to heed their attorney's advice. I agree that there are valid concerns as it relates to water discharge not only from CBM but also from the Oil & Gas Industry as a whole. These issues require our attention if we want to preserve our land and maintain a healthy economy. In my opinion the above petition does not impartially address both sides of the issue therefore I would be opposed to the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking - Powder River Basin Resource Council et al - WQD chapter 2.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity for input. I can be contacted via email at clinpic@vcn.com.

Sincerely



Clinton Pickrel

January 26, 2007

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY. 82002

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Dear Mr. Gordon and fellow Councilman,

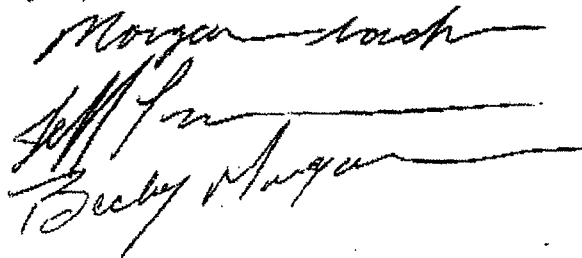
My name is Jeff Morgan. I am opposed to the Petition put before you by the Powder River Basin Resource Council named the **Petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix H.**

I am a life long resident of Campbell County. I chose to stay here because I could make a living here as a rancher. The drought has had a huge impact on the number of livestock we can run and the way we manage our pastures. If it had not been for the CBM industry my wife and I would currently be running no livestock at all. We have taken the liberty to enclose pictures of some of our light calves. Please also find pictures of reservoirs filled with CBM water that have allowed us to continue to run some livestock and allowed us to better rotate and manage our pastures in this severe drought. The benefits of CBM have far out-weighed the bad. Sure we put up with some dust and some inconvenient traffic. CBM operators have done ranch improvements that we could have never afforded to do. A well placed cattleguard, a few new gates, and most of all water and reclamation seeding have been a huge win for us. We feel our reclaimed grass areas are 100 percent better then the old stands. One of the other great things that CBM water has brought us is the ability to plant windbreaks that amount to 1,600 trees. We are very proud of our wind breaks as they have added value to our property. They offer wind protection to our livestock as well as various species of wildlife. We never have considered water to be a burden. Our current permitted stock and domestic wells have very poor quality water compared to the CBM water. Our two track ranch roads that were impassable in mud and snow are now graveled and usable year round.

In conclusion, please deny the petition that has been put before you. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 307-680-1771 or in the evening at 307-682-7355. Please accept my sincere invitation to visit our ranch.

Respectfully,

Jeff & Becky Morgan



To: Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg, Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Fax 307-777-6134

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

I would like to respond to the Powder River Basin Resource Councils Petition for rule on water quality, Chapter 2, appendix H. I would like my comments considered with as much emphasis as those submitted for change of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules. I personally oppose the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking.

I would like to speak from two different points of view. First, from the aspect as an employee of CBM industry and also from the view as member of a homestead ranching family and mineral owner.

As a employee of the CBM industry I see these rule changes as stoppage of all water discharges. Consequently this would eliminate my livelihood and have devastating economic consequences for myself and my family. Who knows how widespread this economic impact would be to me or the thousands of employees that touch this industry thru goods or services directly or indirectly.

From a ranching land owner family and mineral owner I would like to address these aspects. First, I would like to speak of beneficial use. It has greatly increased the utilization of our pasture ground by cattle due to water being more plentiful and placed in strategic locations. Also if it had not been for CBM water discharges in the past six years my cattle would have to travel great distances to seek daily water. Also over this period of time cattle has utilized this water in pasture grazing and confinement with no ill health effects. I have asked both producers on our property to maintain total containment of this water as I want it and see beneficial use of it. Wild life, especially deer, has also increased on our 1800 acres in the recent past due to this abundant water storage. It has been my experience that when you work with the production companies they will diligently strive to accomplish your goals also. As for being stewards of the land we know the problems associated with our property to address SAR, water quality, and quantity problems and have been highly successful in working together. If water discharge were to stop this would require downsizing our herd capacity and impact the family economically.

This industry has also greatly helped our family by finally seeing some of the mineral ownership that has been there for 80 years with royalty income. To eliminate water is to eliminate this also.

As you can see we are opposed to this petition. I don't think people understand the economic magnitude this would have on the State, Counties, and individual. It would be devastation of a great magnitude that would be felt for long term. I also have concerns

that these changes would also affect conventional water wells with over flows associated with stock tanks, etc.

William D. Gustafson



247 Montgomery Rd.
Gillette, WY 82716

January 26, 2006

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Re: Wyoming water quality rules

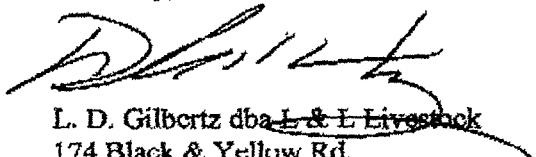
Dear Mr. Gordon,

It has come to my attention through a meeting that was held in Gillette, Wyoming on Thursday January 25, 2007 that the EQC is going to rule on a petition concerning discharge of produced Coal Bed Methane (CBM) water. I am a third generation rancher south of Gillette with extensive CBM development on my place and I am also the Land Department Supervisor for Yates Petroleum Corporation. This has put me in a unique position to have extensive working knowledge from both sides of the fence.

This petition is alarming to me for various reasons as a rancher; the water discharge on my ranch has enhanced the ability of my cattle to more efficiently graze my pastures and provide additional water for the numerous types of wildlife that inhabit it. When prudent Operators and informed Landowners come together at the table solutions that are beneficial to both parties are the result. It is unfortunate that this is not always the case but why should all of the ranches that have benefited from this additional water be put at the mercy of a few that have had or are experiencing negative impacts from the produced water. I sympathize with these ranchers and their inability to come to a mutual agreement with the Operator(s) or have inimitable circumstances but I would hope that our judicial system would be a better place to resolve these types of disputes.

It is my understanding that the change in Barium Standard will only apply to CBM water and that the current drinking water standards are 10 times less stringent than what is proposed for CBM discharge, so why are the people allowed to drink it, wash their clothes, water their lawns, and any other number of uses. If a family living in Gillette can put water with these types of barium limits on the ground what is the logic for a different standard for CBM water?

Sincerely,



L. D. Gilbertz dba L & L Livestock
174 Black & Yellow Rd.
Gillette, Wyoming 82718

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

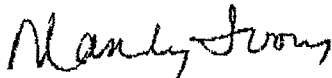
Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Fax (307) 777-6134

Regarding the Petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix II. I have lived in Wyoming and made a living with livestock in Wyoming. My parents have made their living with stock in Wyoming and have leased pasture all over the state. I also have many friends whose family are ranchers. I have not heard of a problem with water. I just know that their ranches benefit if they have minerals and own the mineral rights.

I went to school at the University of Wyoming. I know that the cost there is low because of our states minerals.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,



Mandy Ivory
86 Spicer Lane
Cody, WY 82414

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Fax - (307) 777-6134

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

I have become aware of the Petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix H. My grandfather's father came to Wyoming from Nevada in the late 1800's and purchased and homesteaded. This ranch was owned by our family until the 1980's. My grandmother's grandfather came to the United States from Ireland in the late 1800's, joined the calvary and later ranched in the Big Horn Basin. His son was the first white child born in that area.


I am proud of Wyoming and the way the people who have lived in Wyoming take care of their state and use the resources that we have. My husband and I have owned stock and leased land in many areas of Wyoming. We have many personal friends who own ranches all over Wyoming from Cheyenne to Torrington, Casper, Cody, Thermopolis, Worland, Ten Sleep, Gillette, Roset, Arvada, Wheatland, Douglas, Kemmer. Some of these own the mineral rights for their land and benefit greatly from this and some do not. We never had a problem with water for our livestock and I have never heard of any problems with the water from other ranchers. In fact I know that one felt that there was a great opportunity for irrigation with the additional water.

I know that we all benefit from the minerals in Wyoming. Our three children attended the University of Wyoming. All of our schools benefit but we certainly benefit financially because of the low cost for attending college in Wyoming. We also benefit because of no state income tax and also property taxes.

Wages in Wyoming are low compared to many other places in the United States. Any area where minerals are actively produced in Wyoming benefit from the dollars that come into and filter through that area.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Cathy Ivory

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Fax - (307) 777-6134

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

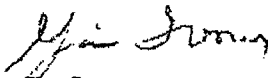
Regarding the Petition to Amend Wyoming Water Quality Rule, Chapter 2, Appendix H. I have lived in Wyoming and made a living with livestock in Wyoming. I know ranchers all over the state. I have never had a problem with water. I know many ranchers near mineral development. A friend who ranches from Rozet to Gillette said that the Belle Fouche River would not have had any water in it during this drought if it had not been for the water generated by the mineral development. He was grateful for it. I also know a rancher near Arvada who has told me for years that it has made his ranch better. He is working on a system to irrigate with it and is anxious to finish to project.

I think that it is interesting that the few ranchers that I have heard complain about it do not own the mineral rights for their property.

I know that everyone in the state benefit, either directly or indirectly, from minerals in Wyoming. I have seen how it hurt Cody when they stopped drilling here. Many like the fact that we have no state income tax, low property tax, good salaries in the schools and low college tuition. We can thank the minerals in Wyoming for all of this. All of our schools benefit but we certainly benefit financially because of the low cost for attending college in Wyoming. We also benefit because of no state income tax and also property.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,


Jim Ivory
84 Spicer Lane
Cody, WY 82414

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Control
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Building, Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Gordon,

This letter is to state my opposition to the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – Powder River Basin Resources Council et al – WQD Chapter 2.

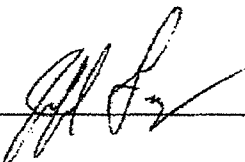
I vigorously oppose this petition. The standards set forth in the petition are unreasonable, especially since the methane water is held to a higher standard than oil well, and coal mine discharge water. The Wyoming Attorney General's office has cautioned against this petition, and if CBM water is held to a stricter standard than other discharge water, the rule will be struck down as arbitrary and capricious.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion in this matter. And remember no water, no gas, no revenue.

Sincerely,



Jess Gray, President



Jeff Gray, General Manager

Tisdale Creek Ranch Inc.
10277 S. Hwy 59
Gillette, WY 82718
307-682-2706

To: Mark Gordon, Chairman

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W 25th St.
Herschler Bldg. Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

From: Roy E Knutson, Jr & Debbie Knutson
P.O. Box 2604
Gillette, WY 82717

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

To Whom It May Concern,

After reviewing the petition to amend Wyoming Water Quality, we have some concerns regarding the effects of the petition as presented by the Powder River Resource Council.

We feel that we have an unbiased opinion on this matter as we are involved in the methane from both sides of the issue. We are contractors to many of the methane companies in Campbell County and we also have a ranch that is greatly affected by the methane activity. We are able to see the issue from both sides and have great concerns about the effects of the petition that the Council has submitted.

There are four different methane companies that have drilled and produced wells on our land and we have yet to see any erosion or salt buildup in our soils. Some of the wells on our land have been in production for 7-8 years. The water is discharged down the draws to reservoirs. It benefits our ranching program tremendously due to the increase in stock water and the lush grass that grows in the bottoms of the draws. In some of our pastures, we could use even more methane water.

We have numerous rubber tire tanks that the methane companies have installed for stock use. The overflow from these tanks goes directly into a reservoir which allows us to not have to check water every day. The increase in deer and antelope that we have seen on our ranch in the last few years is due largely the increase in water availability.

We are also one of numerous vendors/contractors in the methane industry that employ many people (who are very concerned about their jobs and future for their families). The methane industry as a whole has been very gracious to a lot of people and the State of Wyoming.

The methane industry has more of a positive versus negative affect on the residents and landowners in Wyoming, so we need to be very careful not to cause the states economy and lively hood to be brought to a halt, while entertaining the misdirected ideas of a few disgruntled landowners.

Our real concern here is that, through knowing the majority of the petitioners, we believe their real issue is not the environmental effects as much as it is a personal agenda against methane companies and their policies relating to past negotiations and settlements.

All in all, we are great advocates of the methane industry and what it has provided to the majority of the ranchers and the workforce in the State of Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Knutson, JR.
Debbie Knutson

Jan 27, 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Dear Mr. Gordon,

It has come to our attention that you have been presented with a petition by Powder River Basin Resource Council to change Wyoming water quality rules to the Environmental Quality Council and that these proposed changes are aimed at water produced from coal-bed methane wells. After reading a copy of the petition, we are deeply concerned by how such changes would directly affect us personally and our ranching operation, financially.

We, Robert and Charalee Billinger, of Eastern Campbell County, own and operate a ranch that is presently being impacted by discharged coal-bed methane production water. It is flowing at a low level down the Belle Fourche River stream-bed.

Mr. Mark Gordon

2

through our hay meadows. We have not suffered any damage to our riparian area, be it to trees, grass or alfalfa. We winter our cattle in that pasture every year, having done so in our ranching operation since the land was obtained in the 1930's. Until the present drought, we had been able to rely on water from springs and naturally occurring run-off. But this drought has been severe enough to even dry up springs along the historic Texas Trail segment that touches our ranch; the first time that has happened since cattle were first brought up the Trail prior to 1890.

For that reason, we have fully appreciated the benefit of having CBM discharge water flow through that pasture. Our cattle have a sure source of good potable water, while they are pastured there. And the deer and antelope also have year round beneficial use of the water.

From our own experience, we recommend the Citizen Petition for

Mr. Mark Gordon 3

Rulemaking - Powder River Basin Resource Council et al - Revised Version - WQDC Chapter 2, presented to Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman of Wyoming Environmental Quality Council, on January 17-18, 2007, be denied.

Some of the matter in the petition appears to us to be based on flawed reasoning. Furthermore, the proposed changes would shut down the very water we are depending on for our cattle at this time. We believe the present rules are adequate and have been and still are being properly administered.

We do not have any coal bed methane gas production on any of our land, nor are we apt to, and the nearest production is 15 miles away, so our comments are not influenced in any way by monetary gain from such production. It is about time those of us who benefit from the discharge water are heard.

To shut that water off would hurt

Mr. Mark Gordon 4

us badly, financially, at this time. We would have to drill and complete a well in order to water our livestock. Such a well would cost more than \$15,000⁰⁰, no small amount at any time, and ruinous during a drought. We have already suffered 7 years of drought and appear to be entering the 8th year of severe drought conditions.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to submit our concerns.

Sincerely yours,
Robert & Claralee
Claralee Dillinger

ROBERT & CLARALEE DILLINGER
P.O. Box 976
GILLETTE, WYO. 82717
Phone: 307-682-9551

Robert & Nora Balo
1507 Highway 50
Gillette, WY. 82718

January 28, 2007

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Mr. Mark Gordan
Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St,
Herschler Building, Rm. 1714
Cheyenne, WY. 82002

Re: Powder River Basin Resource Council proposal for CBM standards for water discharge WQD Chapter 2

I am a landowner in Campbell County Wyoming. I work for CBMA Inc. an environmental consulting business. My wife, a third generation resident, has family members residing within the county. They are actively involved in agriculture, teaching, coalmining, local government and many other professions.

Residents here depend heavily upon our energy production and mineral production for our living. Without the opportunity of employment associated with these producers, many of our young people would leave our community and state to find employment. Production of our minerals is also a great help paying the costs of our agriculture operations. Without this income many of our neighbors would not be living here contributing to the tax basis of our community and state. The effluent limits of CBM produced water should not be changed to accommodate the proposed limits. Without the CBM produced water much of our family ranch operation would not be watered, creating hardships to wildlife and livestock. The water produced by many of our livestock wells is of poorer quality than the CBM water we are able to utilize. Families residing here in this area have utilized much poorer water than what is allowed to be discharged by the methane industry.

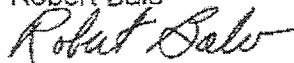
I urge you to consider finding better ways to please this issue. I suggest we allow the methane industry to discharge water and produce methane in our area. Our local economy is very dependant upon the production of this form of energy. The DEQ is monitoring the water quality according to limits which may need changed, but not to the extent it will force companies out of business. This legislation will have a far reaching impact upon the economy of our county and our state. Saunders Enterprise, our partnership livestock operation, has utilized the CBM water for livestock. Taking this away during our current drought situation would jeopardize many of the livestock operations in our area.

Why should CBM water be singled out for strict limitations while allowing others to produce water that will not meet the criteria proposed by the PRBRC?

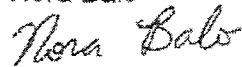
The water of the city of Gillette will not meet the proposed criteria. If the limits of water which is produced within our state changes to this plan, when will our domestic water wells have to meet this criteria? This question could become a major problem for any water wells in our community. Some neighbors utilize water from CBM production for domestic purposes, enjoying better water than was available to them in the past. It seems the benefits outweigh the problems.

Respectfully,

Robert Balo



Nora Balo



FILED

JAN 29 2007

Mr Mark Gordon
Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking- Powder River Basin Resource Council et al Revised
Version - WQD Chapter 2

Dear Council,

I am a rancher in North West Campbell Co on the Middle Prong of Wild Horse. We run the ranch under the Middle Prong Land and Livestock L. P. We have 24 CBM Well on our ranch and 7 outfalls from Marathon and 3 out falls from Yates that arc from State of Wyoming wells on the School Section we lease, W1/2 S 36 T 54 R 76.

We are one of many ranchers that in the last 7 years have been in drought and thanks to the water that we have received from the outfalls from the CBM Wells on the ranch. We have been able to graze parts of the pastures that we did not have water in before CBM. These far corners were water only in the bottom of draws by springs that have long dried up. My father-in-law back in the 50's and 60's had build 9 resaviors threw the ASCS Office and going into this drought they were dry after the first year. Now I have water in 7 of these and hopefully the other 2 will have water as soon as Yates gets their permits and drill in the BLM that We lease.

If I read the changes that are being asked to be made, I would lose all the water that I now have to water my cattle. The levels of pollution that are asked to be changed are only for CBM. Gillette's city water which would not pass these standards would be left alone.

Not only the cattle we own water at these resavoirs but so do the deer, antelope and last summer I was riding and saw 13 head of Elk. It has been years scence I've seen even one Elk here on my place. A year ago last fall there were 9 head out our back door. I have pictures of those and believe they were here drinking water from the CBM tank that waters the pasture behind my house.

From the money side of things the CBM has let me pay my place off, our cattle off and several other debts that I had. Before CBM my children were never going to be able to take over my ranch as I needed to keep ranching until my death. Now that I have been able to pay things off my daughter and her husband are coming home to help and take over in about 5 years. If this industry in shut down that may never happen.

As far as been a steward of the land I feel we are as good as any. The CBM has helped us put in water system to move water from one side of our ranch to the other, so when we move cattle the water can fallow. My children will be 5th generation on this ranch.

Hopefully you will make the decision that your rules are reasonable as they are now and not concenter the changes The Powder River Basin Resource Council are trying to regulate for us all and most of us are capable of taking care of our own ranches and families.

Thank You

*Jon & Ann Colles
Middle Prong Land & Livestock L.P.
SUBD 62
Arvada WY 82831*

307-736-2451

James A. Wolff
148 Recluse Road HCR 77
Gillette, Wyoming 82716-1203

January 26, 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Post-It* Fax Note	7671	Date	1-28-07	# of pages	2
To	Mark Gordon	From	James Wolff		
Co./Dept.	EQC	Co.			
Phone #			Phone #	307-682-9679	
Fax #	307-777-4144		Fax #	307-685-3110	

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – Powder River Basin Resource Council et al –
Revised Version – WQD Chapter 2

Dear Sir:

In reference to the petition before you, James A. Wolff, Martha Joan Wolff, husband and Wife and son James H. Wolff wish to express our views as owners of a ranch in Campbell County, consisting of 11,080 acres. James A. has ranched and farmed for 65 years, his father and grandfather before him and James H. for 40 years. We feel that the use of methane water has been very beneficial to our cow calf ranch, by watering our livestock during the severe drought that Wyoming has endured the last seven years and still are. I'm sure there is a negative side for the ranches that don't need the water. Having CBM operations on our ranch since 1999 we have beneficial use of the water by installing water tanks all over the ranch supplying water for our cattle and wildlife, where we never had it before. By having this water the wildlife numbers have increased and helped create better fall hunting of the deer and antelope. Having this water has also helped the cattle utilize all the grass on the ranch and improve the calf weights in the fall. CBM operations have improved our ranch by building and shale roads and two track trails to unaccessible places, and building reservoirs. CBM has installed power lines on our ranch, making it possible for us to put electricity to our ranch water wells. Without the use of the water none of this would of happened. Over the past seven years CBM employees have put out 3 lighting started prairie fires before they got very big. They also called us if they noticed any problem with our livestock. What a bonus it is to have CBM people looking out for our ranch and are willing to help when in need. We don't feel the water has caused any damage to our ranch.

We have found from dealing with many methane companies that it is best to set down and have a businesslike discussion with the land men of these various companies, usually coming to an agreement that is suitable to both parties.

We are concerned that if this petition is passed, it will mean most methane activity would cease, many contractors would be out of work and their employees would be laid off

and possibly other jobs of employment are not available. It would be a hardship for many.

In summary we do oppose this petition. If it does pass our ranch will suffer, Campbell County will suffer and our state will suffer.

Thank You.

James A. Wolff
~~*James A. Wolff*~~
James A. Wolff

Phone # 1-307-682-9679

Mr. Mark Gordon
Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th Street
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Dear Council,

Being a rancher on the Powder River south of Arvada, Wyoming has been easier now that the CBM has drilled some wells and is putting water into the tanks and then storing in pits. We lease a place plus I have a ranch of my own next door. My place is up off the Powder and the lease place is right on Powder River. I only had one old water well on my place and the rest was watered of run off into a resavoir. With the drought we have not had any run off for several years now and so have not be able to run cattle on my place for the last 3 years. About a year ago the gas company drilled some CBM wells on me but didn't have much water, so they gave me the pipe, and I had to do the work and the digging and put a water line in from the new well they drilled me for the old one that quite. This fall we were able to put 120 head into pasture that we have not been into in 3 years on my own place.

My place is in the Fortafication Area on the BLM and they have a herd of Elk planted in there. Once in a while you use to see a few elk down on my place but not many, this fall we saw around 35 head and I filled my landowners permit on my own place. So I know for a fact the clk and deer have come to water.

The lease place has Powder River thru the middle so have water most the time but for 2 years the river totally dried up. At that time we used the CBM water to water the cows out of the Pits they have built on the River.

With a time of no hay growing and needing to feed, the money that has come from the CBM has made me able to buy the cake and hay I am in need of with out borrowing more than I can pay back.

I have been reading the changes the Powder River Basin Resource Council has asked you to put in the rules and do not believe they are to the benefit of the ranches in our area.

Thank You,



Jeff L. Sorenson
PO Box 56
Arvada, Wyoming 82831
307-736-2451

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Fax- 307-777-6134

FILED

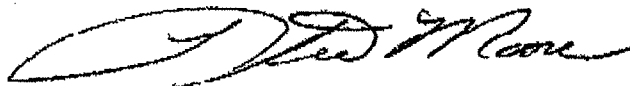
JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

I own and operate a ranch 22 miles south of Gillette, I'm writing to you and the council to object to the petition to amend Wyoming water quality rule, chapter 2, appendix h. My ranch has had CBM water discharged across it and stored on it in ponds for 12 years. It has HELPED me to increase my herd by one third and is helping me put back some of my ground water that our seven year drought took away. Without this water I would be out of business. I distribute this water across my hay field in the spring to help with the rain I don't get to get my hay started. I've increased my hay production by 50%. I have a lot of deer and antelope on my ranch that also benefit from this water. The water has not caused any damage to my range land nor hay ground and in my opinion is of vital importance to Wyoming, we as ranchers have been able to graze longer in pastures that before CBM water were pulled out of by June due to the lack of water. PLEASE consider the views of the ranchers that use this water before ruling on this petition. I know Tooter, Bill, and Robert (Ranchers named in this petition) and they are the first to complain when their CBM land use checks are late also. In my opinion the more water that is produced the greater the benefit to the state land, the economy, stock, and wildlife there is.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views on this matter.

Rockin Rafter O Ranch
752 Hoe creek rd.
Gillette, WY 82718 307-680-1394
Steve Moore owner



To: Mark Gordon, Chairman

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W 25th St.
Herschler Bldg. Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

From: Roy E Knutson, Jr & Debbie Knutson
P.O. Box 2604
Gillette, WY 82717

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

To Whom It May Concern,

After reviewing the petition to amend Wyoming Water Quality, we have some concerns regarding the effects of the petition as presented by the Powder River Resource Council.

We feel that we have an unbiased opinion on this matter as we are involved in the methane from both sides of the issue. We are contractors to many of the methane companies in Campbell County and we also have a ranch that is greatly affected by the methane activity. We are able to see the issue from both sides and have great concerns about the effects of the petition that the Council has submitted.

There are four different methane companies that have drilled and produced wells on our land and we have yet to see any erosion or salt buildup in our soils. Some of the wells on our land have been in production for 7-8 years. The water is discharged down the draws to reservoirs. It benefits our ranching program tremendously due to the increase in stock water and the plush grass that grows in the bottoms of the draws. In some of our pastures, we could use even more methane water.

We have numerous rubber tire tanks that the methane companies have installed for stock use. The overflow from these tanks goes directly into a reservoir which allows us to not have to check water every day. The increase in deer and antelope that we have seen on our ranch in the last few years is due largely the increase in water availability.

We are also one of numerous vendors/contractors in the methane industry that employ many people (who are very concerned about their jobs and future for their families). The methane industry as a whole has been very gracious to a lot of people and the State of Wyoming.

The methane industry has more of a positive versus negative affect on the residents and landowners in Wyoming, so we need to be very careful not to cause the states economy and lively hood to be brought to a halt, while entertaining the misdirected ideas of a few disgruntled landowners.

Our real concern here is that, through knowing the majority of the petitioners, we believe their real issue is not the environmental effects as much as it is a personal agenda against methane companies and their policies relating to past negotiations and settlements.

All in all, we are great advocates of the methane industry and what it has provided to the majority of the ranchers and the workforce in the State of Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Knutson, JR.
Debbie Knutson

To: Mr. Mark Gordon
Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Rm. 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – WQD Chapter 2
By: The Powder River Basin Resource Council

Dear Mr. Gordon:

This letter is in regards to the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking: Filed 1-05-07.

I have made my “living” in the methane play around Gillette, Buffalo, Sheridan WY and Decker MT for the last 12 years. I also have mineral royalties around Sheridan, WY.

I strongly oppose this petition as the DEQ states it will shut in 99% of all surface discharges. This would put thousands of people, Hundreds of businesses out of work and hundreds of mineral royalty owners without a check.

The standards already in place are below Human drinking water standards for many of the limits. The standards do not need lowered for livestock or wildlife.

The State Engineers Office (SEO) issues the UW5 – appropriation permits with the beneficial use listed of pumping the water to surface to get the gas out of the coal. Livestock and wildlife uses are secondary beneficial uses.

I put in over 800 acres of irrigation in Sheridan County over five years ago using the methane water that is still going strong and producing two cuttings of alfalfa each summer. Correct soil science was conducted years ago and is still proving itself working.

I know of many ranchers that would be devastated in Sheridan County without the water in ponds, tanks for livestock and on hay fields to support their operation in this 20 plus yearlong drought.

Thank you for reading my comments and I strongly urge you to vote NO on this petition filed to circumvent the SEO and the WOGCC. This petition is not for the better good of the people or the land.

Cordially,



Verlin Dannar
P.O. Box 350
Sheridan, WY 82801
Phonc: 307-750-2712
Fax: 307-750-2713
Email: verlin@vcn.com

1-29-07

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

To: Mr. Mark Gordon
Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Rm. 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – WQD Chapter 2
By: The Powder River Basin Resource Council

Dear WYEQC,

I am writing this letter in regard to the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking filed by the Powder River Resource Council.

I am a rancher in Sheridan County and previously in Campbell County for the last eighteen years.

I have benefited and appreciated the CBM water for the last 11 years.

I understand there are a few instances where problems may have occurred, but the majority of ranchers that I interact, do business with and neighbor have all considered it a great blessing. I can remember all of the times I stood looking at windmills and a dry stock tank in the heat of August hoping for the smallest bit of wind. After the methane came, the water quality for their discharge was better than the old wells on the place. My calf weaning weights averaged 25 to 40 pounds higher than previous years due to fresh, cool, clean water supply. The amount of wildlife increased tremendously due to a constant water source. Deer, Antelope, Sage Grouse and Ducks all previously scarce, became abundant.

We also stocked several of the CBM reservoirs with Brown, Brook, Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout, along with Bass and Channel Cat fish. All have thrived and grown. They are great recreation for kids and adults. No one had ever had close access to fishing before. The closest opportunities were to drive to the mountains, the bass pond at Weston or the community fishing lake in Gillette.

When we moved to Sheridan we bought property on the Little Badger Creek drainage. The water quality is so poor there that it was unusable for stock. I lost 2 calves and a cow the first year, and then had to haul water for the rest of the summer. Wildlife was scarce due to inadequate poor water supply. I started a bird farm and planted Pheasants. The birds left because the spring to be used as a water source dried up due to many years of drought.


Since the CBM water has come in I have been able to utilize the whole ranch for grazing. Wildlife has moved in abundantly. Sage Grouse, Deer, Elk, Antelope, Hungarian Partridge and Sharptail Grouse have populated and established where none have been seen before.

The game birds that were planted have moved back in the drainage now that there is abundant quality water.

I strongly vote **NO** to the petition. It would be devastating to all ranchers in my area. Devastating to all wildlife that has come to rely on these water sources. Devastating to all fish that have been planted in the reservoirs to establish recreational and ecological benefits. Devastating to all people who are employed and rely on this water in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please take into consideration that a few people should not be allowed to set standards on the livelihood of the majority of us that it would negatively affect.

Cordially,

 1-29-07
Karen J. Dannar
Rancher

P.O. Box 350
Sheridan, WY 82801
Phone: 307-750-2712

PAR Ranch
P. O. Box 154
Meeteetse, WY 82433
307-868-2355

FILED

JAN 29 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

January 26, 2007

RE: PRBRC Petition to regulate discharged produced water

Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th Street
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

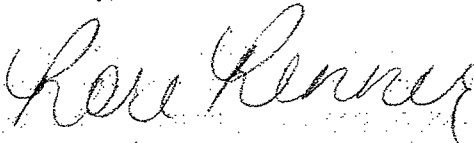
Dear Council Members,

I am writing in response to Jill Morrison's written testimony January 16, 2007, at the EQC hearing in Cheyenne with regard to Powder River Basin Resource Council's (PRBRC) petition to regulate discharged produced water from coal bed methane and conventional oil and gas production. I was in no way coerced or bribed by industry representing conventional oil and gas or coal bed methane production to attend the EQC hearing. I voluntarily attended the hearing concerned with the fact that our produced water may be shut down as a result of the PRBRC petition. We absolutely depend on produced water and are not seeing adverse effects from this discharged water.

I do not feel we have been misled by industry when considering the seriousness of eliminating produced water. In the Big Horn Basin, landowners and mineral companies have a symbiotic relationship, as we understand the economic benefit both the agricultural and mineral industries provide to our state and each other.

Please consider ruling against the PRBRC petition. I think it would be advantageous to coal bed methane water recipients if cases were reviewed individually as opposed to making a blanket ruling affecting all produced water users within the State of Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Rori Renner

PAR Ranch

FILED

JAN 29 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

I am a landowner from Campbell County and testified at the January 16th and 17th hearing about the petition that was in front of you. I truly appreciated the chance to discuss with you my concern about aspects of the petition that could prevent me from using coalbed methane water as a part of my operation.

I am concerned that my thoughts about the petition will not be given the appropriate amount of consideration because of Jill Morrison's letter to you. I would like to say that, yes, industry offered to help with travel arrangements.. This help in no way influenced my position on the issue. There are several parts of the petition that I believe could stand in the way of my use of this water, and that is why I chose to testify in opposition to it.

I ask that you please consider that the method I chose to use to get to Cheyenne for your meeting should not have any bearing on your rulemaking proceeding. I would further suggest that if you could hold a hearing on this issue closer to the farmers, ranchers, and communities that are actually affected, my travel and the travel of others would not have been so burdensome.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Opasne Tweedy
P.O. Box 713
Sullette WY 82717