

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality,

As a citizen of Riverton, Fremont County, Wyoming, I am writing in support of Aethon's (Moneta Divide) Proposed Discharge Permit. I have read the Water Quality Compliance Analysis of the Long-Range Development Plan, attended the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's public meeting on May 20th and several other germane community presentations, and used my engineering (2 bachelors degrees in engineering + Wyoming Professional Engineer) and Economic Development (MBA + state and local Economic Development Organization memberships) training and experiences to form my opinion.

First, Aethon Energy continues to be a committed, responsible business in our community, dedicated to their core values of responsible resource development, environmental stewardship, social responsibility and safety. The Moneta Divide Energy Project (MDEP) is responsible energy development; protecting the environment by meeting all applicable regulatory requirements and being environmentally protective while providing long-term economic benefits to the local communities and state of Wyoming.

Second, while the environmental impacts have been debated and no one wants to pollute Wyoming's waterways, especially a Class 1 designated surface water, I believe Aethon has correctly utilized the scientific method to determine the MDEP will protect the environment by meeting all applicable regulatory requirements. Environmental Resource Management Inc. (ERM) a leading global provider of environmental, health, safety, risk, and social consulting services completed a study of the Moneta Divide project called the Water Quality Compliance Analysis of the Long-Range Development Plan. In ERM's analysis, they used the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) watershed model and Generalized Environmental Modeling System for Surface Waters (GEMSS) water quality model, both are widely used and accepted by water quality experts. The modeling was highly conservative, including multiple factors of safety which provides an additional level of environmental protection. The study conclusion was; provided the discharge concentration and load levels are not exceeded, the regulatory antidegradation criteria would be met and the various downstream receiving waters will continue to be protected and their existing uses will be maintained.

Third, the economic impacts to Riverton, Fremont County, and the state of Wyoming are significant. The Bureau of Land Management estimates the Moneta project could generate \$71 million every year in federal royalties, \$57.7 million in annual severance taxes – which go to the state – and \$70 million in local production taxes for counties. Based on Alternative 2 in the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an average of 740 and 327 jobs during the development and production phases would be created, respectively. These core jobs would result in four service sector jobs being created to service the individuals and their families in the surrounding communities of Riverton and Casper.

Based on my analysis, the proposed Moneta Divide project would be mutually beneficial by protecting our environment and providing a positive economic impact to Riverton, Fremont County, and Wyoming. I encourage the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to issue the Aethon (Moneta Divide) Proposed Discharge Permit and govern the discharge for the benefit of Wyoming citizens.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kevin Kershisnik