

Jason Thomas  
Wyoming DEQ Water Quality Division,  
200 West 17th Street,  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**RE: Aethon (Moneta Divide) Proposed Discharge Permit**

Dear Wyoming Water Quality Administrators,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the Popo Agie Anglers Chapter of Wyoming Trout Unlimited to comment on Aethon Energy's proposed discharge permit (WYPDES Permit Number WY0002062).

The Popo Agie Anglers have been leading cold water conservation in Fremont County for over 20 years with a strong focus on improving the tributaries flowing into the Wind River. It is our understanding that the permit proposal will allow Aethon to dump 8.27 million gallons of produced water (per day) from the Moneta Divide oil and gas field into tributaries of Boysen Reservoir. Our membership, and many in the broader angling community of Fremont County, are deeply concerned about the potential impacts that issuing this permit could have on the fisheries, and the abundant angling opportunities in Boysen Reservoir and its downstream waters.

Boysen Reservoir boasts populations of trout, sauger, walleye, and other game fish species that are frequently caught and kept for human consumption. Further downstream, the WYDEQ Class 1 waters in the Wind River Canyon and Bighorn River are renowned as a Blue Ribbon tailwater fishery that sustains numerous guides, outfitters, and the recreating community. People travel long distances to have the opportunity to fish these waters, particularly in times of the year where fishing opportunities are reduced because of weather, runoff, or low flows.

Our experience tells us that Fremont County boast some of the best fishing opportunities in Wyoming. These opportunities attract visitors and contribute to a robust outdoor recreation economy that is resilient to the boom and bust cycles frequently seen in this state. For us personally, fishing is a part of our livelihood, our recreation, and our heritage. It is something we hope to pass down and share with future generations of Wyomingites who will need clean water to keep this pastime alive.

We urge the DEQ to consider tighten pollution limits in the permit and consider less damaging alternatives than dumping up to 8.27 million gallons of produced water into Boysen Reservoir, daily.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Dave Petersen, President of and on behalf of the Popo Agie anglers

**This Letter is an electronic copy – a signed hard copy was sent in the mail on 6/20/19**