

Pete WEISBECK

As a resident of Hot Springs county I oppose this permit for several obvious reasons.

1. The increased salinity in the Boysen will eventually destroy the aquaculture in the lake and of course downstream in the Bighorn river. The river is a nationally known blue ribbon flyfishing destination, and as such is a keystone to the tourist economy of Thermopolis.
2. The river is classified as grade A water and is used by the town of Thermopolis as a water source.
3. The Bighorn river water is used to irrigate farms all through the eastern bighorn basin. The longterm effects of saline irrigation water on soil fertility is well know and it is all bad.
4. The DEQ has stated it's intent on keeping the water in the river a grade A quality but this additional pollution source denies that intent completely.
5. As a home builder I actively promote the Bighorn basin as a relocation destination, and the Bighorn river is the centerpiece of my enthusiasm, in fact the majority of my out of town customers are building here for the proximity of a world class trout stream.
6. I believe that the loss of tourism dollars and the reduction of farm productivity would be an economic disaster for the Bighorn basin.
7. In evaluating the pros and cons of this permit please consider what we have to gain versus what we stand to lose. We can leave some oil in the ground and it will represent virtually money in the bank for our grandchildren, or we can pollute the clean water resource that we inherited and should pass down to our descendants. We only get one chance to get this right, the responsibility for the results are on you.