

Charles & Marilyn Ham

- DEQ should consider safer options for disposal of polluted produced water from the Moneta Divide oil and gas field. If discharge of produced water is needed, it should be purified and piped to Boysen Reservoir, not dumped into Alkali and Badwater Creeks. To date, the DEQ has NOT considered any other alternatives to the surface discharge proposed by Aethon. Analysis is required by the DEQ's rules.
- Discharges of produced water containing high concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS) and oil field chemicals in the Moneta Divide oil and gas field are already impacting Alkali and Badwater Creeks.
- DEQ should prohibit Aethon from dumping its untreated and partially treated oil and gas field wastewater into Boysen Reservoir because Boysen is one of the most popular state parks in Wyoming. The water quality should remain clean to protect swimming, municipal drinking water supplies, crop irrigation, boating, and fishing.
- The Wind River flowing through Wind River Canyon is one of the most impressive and awe inspiring natural features in all of Wyoming. This is a Class 1 river—the highest level of protection available under Wyoming's environmental laws. The DEQ's own rules prohibit the degradation of water quality in Class 1 surface waters, how, then, can the wastewater be discharged but the agency intends to permit would do exactly that.
- The DEQ's draft permit doesn't discuss the potential negative social and economic impacts from the increased discharge to downstream communities. Impacts to the Wind River's blue ribbon fishery, the increased salts on crops, or affects to Thermopolis' drinking water treatment facility could be substantial, yet the draft permit is silent on those issues. DEQ must follow Chapter 1 and its anti-degradation policies by requiring this analysis.