

Richard Ridgway

I was born in Cody more than 70 years ago. The drive south to Thermopolis, through the Wind River Canyon, and around Boysen Reservoir has always been a treat. Overnights in Thermopolis for basketball tournaments still are fond memories. The idea that we might actually accept the surface discharge of massive amounts of produced water from 4100 wells into the Boysen Reservoir and count on "dilution" to take care of the problem is dumbfounding. I live in a rural area and know what all of us must do and should do to make sure our septic systems never get to other water systems for "dilution."

My understanding is that the Clean Water Act requires that the permit for a project like this must address the potential negative impacts to downstream communities and activities. This is a just such a case with the Boysen Reservoir, the fisheries of the Big Horn River, the town of Thermopolis, and the other Big Horn Basin communities downstream. How can the DEQ issue a permit that allows the discharge of millions of gallons of waster water a day into the tributaries of Boysen Reservoir without examining thoroughly the potential risks? This seems like a clear State of Wyoming interest.

Please return to the permitting process and examine thoroughly all of the potential negative impacts and their costs for the communities, the sportsmen, the outdoor recreation industries, and the State.

Thank you for your consideration.
Richard Ridgway