

Allen DARLINGTON

My name is Al Darlington, I live in the Wind River Canyon, 3 miles north of Boysen Dam. I attended the public meeting held in Thermopolis on the Atheon Discharge Permit. This permit depends on a holding bay strategy, where discharge water is mixed with clean water as it enters Badwater Bay. It assumes Boysen remains in a constant state. What happens if the mixing bay no longer exists?

I asked one of the Wyoming DEQ representatives if they had considered the possibility of the dam being destroyed by an earth quake. They hadn't. That thought had not entered their mind. I doubt they considered drought as well. Assuming Boysen will stay in a constant state with an ever-present mixing bay is foolish. No one can predict the future. This permitting process should address the possibility of the mixing bay no longer existing. Not doing so is irresponsible.

I have experienced two earth quakes in the Wind River Canyon. Boysen dam is an earthen dam. The permit does not address what happens if the dam is damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster like an earth quake, or by a manmade disaster like a terrorist act? Boysen carrying capacity would be reduced considerably. The mixing bay could no longer exist. What is the contingency plan if this happens? This should be addressed in the permit.

I have also experienced severe droughts over the years I have lived in the Canyon. I have seen Boysen water levels lowered drastically. I have seen the proposed mixing bay itself lowered considerably during drought years. What happens if water levels in Boysen lower to the point of eliminating the mixing bay through drought? This is not addressed in the permit.

Until these concerns are addressed in the permit, I object to the discharging of discharge water into Boysen Reservoir because of the possibility of the bay no longer existing.