

Kevin Frederick
Water Quality Division Administrator
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
200 West 17th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Aethon Moneta Divide Draft WYPDES Permit WY0002062

Dear Mr. Frederick,

Please consider this correspondence as a letter of support for the release of the Draft Permit and Statement of Basis (SOB) for the **Aethon Moneta Divide Draft WYPDES Permit WY0002062** and suggest that WDEQ approve the final permit upon completion of the required public comment period. It is my contention that the provided models and associated studies provide adequate proof that the discharge from this facility will meet the requirements of State of Wyoming and Wyoming DEQ. Additionally, by allowing the draft permit to be approved, additional surface water will become available for livestock and wildlife. These creatures have generally benefited from the Frenchie Draw WYPDES facility.

While, the discussion surrounding the permitting process and associated studies is important, I would also ask that you consider the impact to our local economies and the economy of the State of Wyoming. Aethon's operations generate tens of millions of dollars in annual tax revenues for the State of Wyoming and tens of millions of dollars in employee and contractor earnings that in turn contributes to both the state and local economies. The operations employ full-time employees as well as numerous full-time and part-time contractors. These employees are our neighbors and family. This activity is part of the backbone of our state and is integral to our livelihood. This project has the potential to support hundreds of families and provide much needed relief to all of the aforementioned economies. This type of activity is part of our history and is very much part of our future. Because of this, I wholeheartedly support the efforts of Aethon and the associated permit.

Your consideration of these comments is appreciated and we would be happy to provide further conversation regarding the project if it would assist your process. I support the Draft Permit and believe that the appropriate review and due diligence has taken place with regard to Wyoming DEQ regulations. I would urge the Department to issue the permit as soon as you process allows.

Sincerely,



Mayor Rich Gard
City of Riverton, WY