

Paul Cook

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As to the issuance of permits to allow Aethon Energy to dispose of untreated produced waste water & other petroleum chemicals from the Moneta Divide oil & gas field into the Boysen Reservoir, Wind River, Alkali and Badwater Creeks the response from Wyoming's DEQ must be an unequivocal..."NO!"

Reasons why "NO" is the only correct response;

Extraction of oil & gas as a natural resource is one of the filthiest procedures on our planet today. The waste and by-product from these operations are some of the most dangerous pollutants that humans and wildlife populations can be faced with. Petroleum contaminates perhaps hold only a slightly less devastating effect than the waste produced in the mining of Uranium and Lead.

The majority of Wyoming Citizens are keenly aware of the environmental qualities they have been blessed to occupy. Wyoming has some of the most pristine landscapes, unlimited opportunities for all types of outdoor recreation, and unrivaled fish & wildlife populations found anywhere in all of North America. To grant any entity permission that would begin to jeopardize the lifestyle afforded in this environment is totally unfathomable.

In today's world precedent setting has proven to be a dangerous activity. Aethon Energy is currently only one of many petroleum operators in Wyoming, the Moneta Divide is currently only one of hundreds of active oil & gas fields in Wyoming, the current application is for a maximum daily disposal of 8.27 million gallons of contaminated, untreated petroleum waste into our environment. Most folks of average cognitive ability would raise the questions; Which operator will apply next? What field is the waste coming from? Where do they want to dump their waste? How much waste do they say they will dump? How long a period of time will they dump waste?

Does anyone actually know the true composition & percentages of this waste we call "produced water"? Are there any statistical facts on the lasting or hereditary impacts caused by exposure to petroleum pollutants? What does exist are documented facts that some types of petroleum waste can contain radioactive ingredients and neutralization of this contamination does not occur over time.

Many industries in Corporate America have waste and toxic by-products produced as part of their specific operations. The cost incurred for treatment & responsible disposal of their industrial waste is simply accounted for as operational overhead, more commonly referred to as, "the cost of doing business!" Is there any justification why the petroleum industry should be exempted from such expenditures at the same time as they permanently damage our environment at no cost to themselves?

Petroleum waste is a Petroleum Industry responsibility. If responsible disposal requires transportation of waste to a proper disposal treatment facility that should be the only answer to this issue. Attempting to initiate any alternative conversations on this issue should be prohibited, or at the very least totally & completely ignored by oversight authorities.

Thank You for Your time and consideration. - Paul D. Cook - Cheyenne

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