

Charles Hutson

I worked in the Frenchie Draw field for 10 years, 2 of which I took care of the water discharge pits. We did extensive tests and checks on these daily. This field has been operating and discharging production water since the early 50's when some of the first wells were drilled. My family and my co workers families lives depend on working in that field. Encana and Aethon Energy have tried multiple ways to clean up and discharge the water. They spent millions to build a special plant just for this purpose. They also drilled a special SWD well which got shot down by the state after spending an absurd amount of money and jumping through multiple hoops to please the public. The thing that the public does not understand is that water has been running down the Badwater Creek into Boysen Resivor since the 1950's which in turn flows into the Wind River. I have fished, rafted, and boated on both of these for the past 30 plus years. I have had my children in them without worries of ever catching anything from the produced water. Another thing a lot of the public doesn't understand is there would be zero wildlife in the entire Moneta Divide area if it were not for water being produced and discharged under extreme guidance from the DEQ and EPA. I feel there is nothing hurting the environment out there with the produced water being discharged on a daily basis. The only thing that ever changed was the amount of water being discharged and the better quality because of the good stewardship from the companies involved. I worked with 90 percent of the personal out there for years and know some of then on a personal basis. None of them are out to hurt the environment or mess things up for the future. They all have familys and are all outdoorsy type people. They are all from small towns and providing great revenue for the businesses around those small towns. One of the biggest things is the public needs to be informed of how this operation has been ran for the last 70 years. If surface discharge is not an option then they need to let this company drill some disposal wells and run them just like they do all over the state on a daily basis.