



**J. J. JOEL FARBER**

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**February 17, 2020**

Mr. Kevin Frederick, PG  
Administrator, Water Quality Division  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
200 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Transmitted electronically via WDEQ's website and followed by regular mail to the address above


**Subject: Comment on the Aethon Energy Operating, LLC Revised Draft Renewal of WYPDES Permit Number WY0002062 dated January 17, 2020.**


**Dear Mr. Frederick:**

This letter provides my comment on the subject Aethon Energy draft renewal WYPDES permit.

I commented on the initial draft of this WYPDES permit in a letter to you dated July 5, 2019. My comment on the revised draft addresses the same core concern with the proposed discharge of formation fluids to Badwater Creek and its tributaries upstream from Boysen Reservoir.

The revised permit does not adequately address the fate and transport of the contaminants (both organic and inorganic) discharged to Badwater Creek. Although I understand that the revised permit is complete and meets the technical requirements of the WYPDES program, the discharge proposed is not protective of human health and the environment. A technical analysis and basis for the discharge proposed in the revised draft permit is not provided. Justification for the proposed discharge is based on past practice discharge that was only allowed on an interim basis, and does not establish a defensible assessment of the risk to human health. Risk assessments are routinely performed when a reasonable potential for harm to humans exists. Please exercise WDEQ's administrative authority to deny this permit until it is based on a technical analysis of the risk to human health.





Given the beneficial uses already adjudicated for the water held in storage in Boysen Reservoir, presenting a defensible technical assessment of the risks to human health from discharges permitted under the WYPDES program is a reasonable and prudent action. Boysen Reservoir and the state park that encompasses it are one of Wyoming's great treasures. Please consider the welfare of the people who visit it.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this input.

Respectfully,

**J. JOEL FARBER**