

# Frank Herbert

I have some concerns about the current draft. I am wondering if it is not a form of targeting an oil/gas company within Fremont County/Natrona County. I fear that the stringent levels of some of the test are unattainable. Resulting in the loss of production/cut back of production and possible future development. If this is too happen it will have a trickle down affect on the economies of Fremont County, Hot Springs Co and Natrona Co. Aethon Energy is based out of Riverton as a local office, and as a result there is a substantial amount of monies spent both in local businesses, as well as contributions to local organizations,(4-H, FFA, sports teams, and numerous others) This funding is not limited to only Fremont County, but extends to Hot Spring Co. as well as Natrona Co. Although Aethon may not be a "Big Player" as far as oil/gas production in the nation. They are large contributors to the local communities. They employ guys that live not only in Riverton, Lander, but there are employees in Thermopolus and Casper. Monies thru wages not only is spent in Riverton/Fremont County, but in Hot Springs and Natrona Co. I feel that if this permit is allow to go into affect, what is to stop the spread of such permits to other oil and gas companies operating within the state of Wyoming? If this was to happen, the economic effect not only on local towns/counties and state wide would be disastrous. We as Wyomingites pride ourselves as being independent and self sustaining. However, as smaller companies are affected by permitting that is too stringent and unattainable, so are the local communities. Along with local businesses, the employment of other persons that may not work directly for Aethon Energy, but service companies that contract to Aethon will also be impacted. And as mentioned before a larger trickle down will result.

As a result of the economic impact, the affected counties will see a loss of population, due to people having to move either out of county or out of state for employment. Which as a state we do not want to see, and we work at encouraging our youth and future generations to stay within the state. Such a permit would not only discourage future development and expansion, but our youth and kids will have to move out of state for employment.

The two tributaries (Bad Water and Alkali Creek) are and have been named as such. I have lived here for the past 7 years and have seen both creeks become dry creek beds in the summer months. Thus sustaining aquatic life is not possible. Fish need water to live, if the creek is dry, so are the fish!!!

I have recreated in the public lands surrounding the area and have observed livestock, wildlife both ungulates and waterfowl and fur bearing animals, take advantage of the water discharge areas as local water sources. IF you have been thru the area, you will know that water for such animals can be and is hard to locate in the arid summer months. These surface discharge area's provide water sources year round for our wildlife and livestock. Thus eliminating some of the stresses on the animals.

In conclusion, I feel that the draft permit should be revisited/revised to not only levels that will allow Aethon Energy to continue its current production, but also set up in such a manner as to encourage future growth and expansion. Providing future growth not only for Wyoming energy, but our local communities, counties and state. While allowing for our future generations to remain in the wonderful state of Wyoming.

