

WY DEQ
Water Quality Division
Herschler Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Continuing Pollution issues Boysen/Big Horn River

To whom it may concern:

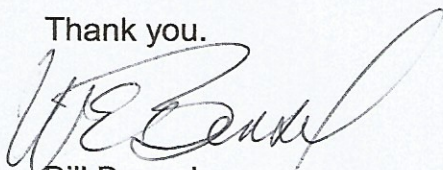
The current permitted discharges into Badwater and Alkali Creeks, tributaries of Boysen River and the Wind Big Horn River system, are revealed to be a risk to local and downstream uses at current levels. There are immediate impacts to wildlife and aquatic ecosystems, notably the Boysen Reservoir fisheries. These are shocking revelations that are being allowed to continue, month by month, contributing to degradation of existing uses and ecosystems.

Additional downstream uses that are prime and critical to the people of Wyoming include potable water, irrigation and other uses which must not continue to be put at risk with the current and overly liberal discharge limits set by DEQ. Current monthly loads and limits must be reduced to help protect these uses from further degradation.

The overly permissive compliance schedule and allowable concentrations for Chloride in Badwater Creek must be reduced now to the 230 mg/l set by DEQ. Allowing 4 years to comply for damage already done ignores the responsibilities of environmental quality by our DEQ. Further, VOC discharges must also receive a limit in this discharge permit.

Due to damage done, waters of Badwater and Alkali Creeks should be listed as 303 (d) Impaired waterways until such time as these water quality issues may be resolved and water quality improvement benchmarks for local and downstream uses is confirmed.

Thank you.



Bill Bense
Ranchester, WY