Lisa Grutzmacher

While I thank you for not allowing new waste to be emitted, I am writing to request requirements that Aethon clean up the existing damage caused by decades of oil field pollution in Alkali and Badwater creeks. The DEQ should reduce the monthly load of salts allowed to be discharged in the permit.

The DEQ's proposed permit allows the industry four years to come into compliance with water quality standards, allowing pollution to be discharged that violates water quality standards. Please require a reduction of the concentrations of chloride allowed in Badwater Creek now rather than in four years. The regulatory limit for chloride in Badwater Creek is 230 mg/L, but chloride concentrations in the wastewater being discharged into these creeks is 100 times higher.

Please also require limits in the permit for harmful oil field chemicals such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes at the discharge points.

Alkali and Badwater Creeks should be on the 303 (d) impaired waters list so it will be cleaned up. Any future requests by industry to weaken the regulatory chloride concentration and allow more pollution into Badwater Creek should be denied.