

Richard Ridgway

Kevin Frederick
DEQ/WQD Administrator
200 West 17th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Frederick,

I am writing in reference to the work the DEQ is doing with regard to the Aethon permitting and the Boysen Reservoir and Wind River. I was born and raised in Cody, Wyoming. My trips through the Wind River Canyon, sightseeing, fishing, picnicing, and just passing through range back to the school bus trips with our football team in the early 60's. I've admired and envied the recreational opportunities the Boysen and the Wind River have afforded to the citizens of Wyoming.

I was stunned to learn the first news about the vast expansion of the drilling and development, but then I was gratified to learn of your reaction of strengthening the permitting standards. I applaud those efforts. The gas resources in that field are clearly an important resource for Wyoming but they can and must be developed ways that don't compromise what has been and will be a vital outdoor recreational resource. Again, I applaud your efforts to strengthen the permit for Aethon.

There is always a "but." I apologize. I understand that the existing discharge has exceeded legally required limits for pH, oil and grease, and chlorides, and contains no limits for benzene. My scientific friends tell me benzene is one of the most dangerous chemicals in the mix.

I hope you will build on the good work you have already done to address these remaining challenges to the enduring quality of the Boysen and Wind River.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Richard Ridgway