



YOUR VOICE & COMMENT NEEDED TO PROTECT OUR WATER
Hearing on Fort Union Wyodak Aquifer Exemption
March 26th, 4pm to 6pm
Wright Branch Library, 305 Wright Blvd

Please attend the hearing to send a message to DEQ and EPA and send written comments to:

DEQ/Water Quality Division

Kevin Frederick, Administrator

122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building 4W

Cheyenne, WY 82002

FAX (307) 777-7610 (You can fax comments by the **March 26th deadline**, but you also need to mail the original signed copy. Unfortunately DEQ does not accept emailed comments).

Background

Linc Energy is proposing to build an experimental underground coal gasification project a few miles north of Wright, Wyoming. The project is on a state section at 36 T44N R 74W. The process will take place within the Fort Union aquifer in the Wyodak coal seam at about 1,100 feet deep.

Reasons to Oppose the Aquifer Exemption

- The aquifer contains good quality water at just over 500 total dissolved solids (TDS), making it a suitable drinking water aquifer. The Fort Union is the most important and commonly used water supply aquifer in the Powder River Basin.
- The process pollutes groundwater by creating benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, phenols, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons—all of which are known carcinogens.
- The company has a pilot project in Australia, and an independent scientific panel recently cautioned the Queensland government that no new projects should be allowed until Linc could demonstrate successful aquifer cleanup and decommissioning.
- DEQ failed to consider the quality of the water in assessing whether it should be exempted from Safe Drinking Water Act protection, and they confirmed that this would be the first aquifer exemption for the Fort Union Formation in the Powder River Basin and the first time DEQ has exempted an aquifer of drinking water quality.
- This case sets a dangerous precedent for future exemptions of drinking water aquifers in the Fort Union Formation. Linc Energy holds coal leases on 333 state sections—covering over 184,000 acres. This project could be used to justify future aquifer exemptions for development in other areas.
- There are many aquifers 1,000 feet or deeper within the Gillette area that serve both the city and surrounding subdivisions, and the water needs of the local area are only increasing. Good quality water like this should be protected for future generations.