

From: Bobby Hill <[bhill@hillranch.us](mailto:bhill@hillranch.us)>  
Date: Mon, Apr 6, 2015 at 12:10 PM  
Subject: Raton Basin Water and Water Quality  
To: [janet.kieler@state.co.us](mailto:janet.kieler@state.co.us)  
Cc: [djfriednash@state.co.us](mailto:djfriednash@state.co.us), [larry.wolk@state.co.us](mailto:larry.wolk@state.co.us)

Hill Ranch  
Dottie & Bobby Hill  
3794 C West Highway 67  
Glen Rose, TX 76043

April 6, 2015

Janet Kieler  
Permit Sections Manager  
CDPHE/WQCD  
WQCD-WQP-B2  
4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S. B-2  
Denver, CO 80246-1530  
Email: [janet.kieler@state.co.us](mailto:janet.kieler@state.co.us)

Re: Raton Basin Water and Water Quality

Dear Ms. Kieler:

It is a concern to Hill Ranch that surface discharge of produced water may be stopped. Because of permit actions by the state, XTO Energy and Pioneer will be forced to either inject all produced water or curtail its operations. Either way, we lose valuable water that augments flow in the over-appropriated Purgatoire River. It feels like landowners have very little voice about what happens with water on their land.

We are the owners of approximately 48,000 acres of the Maxwell Land Grant, situated in Las Animas County, Colorado. Our properties are along the Purgatoire River which is in the Lower Arkansas River drainage. In addition to ranching activities on our properties, we have leased portions of our properties for coalbed methane gas production to XTO Energy and Pioneer. We own water rights which we utilize for farming and agricultural activities. We also have retained the rights to waters produced from the coalbed methane gas production on our properties.

The state wants to impose limits on discharges to protect species and uses that do not exist in these areas, and have not existed in the past. Please consider leaving the classification for the water in Lorencito Canyon as agriculture.

The historical water flows in Lorencito Canyon are not sufficient to sustain fisheries or fishery habitats. . . . Lorencito Canyon is primarily a dry bed for significant periods each year. Waters, which now flow in Lorencito Canyon are from coalbed methane dewatering activities, so are temporary. When the dewatering activities subside or are eliminated, the waterflows will return to normal levels, including seasonal periods with a dry creek bed.

Written comments/Bobby Hill, 2002 WQCC Arkansas River Hearings.

The same remains true today. But, now the state's proposed discharge permit will deprive us of water rights and waters used for our ranching operations. Final permits, when issued, should protect the continued use of the produced water in the Purgatoire watershed. We have forfeited valuable water to Kansas; let's not discard the produced water too!

Sincerely,

*B. F. Hill*

Bobby Hill

cc: Governor Hickenlooper - c/o Doug Friednash, email: [djfriednash@state.co.us](mailto:djfriednash@state.co.us)  
Dr. Larry Wolk (Executive Director, CDPHE) - email: [larry.wolk@state.co.us](mailto:larry.wolk@state.co.us)