

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
STATE OF WYOMING**

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOND)
FORFEITURE OF)
High Plains Gas, LLC,) Docket No. 14-3501A
Bond No. LPM9050903)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S RESPONSE TO PETITIONER'S
REQUEST FOR HEARING

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), pursuant to the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council's (EQC) Response Order dated and filed April 28, 2014, hereby answers Petitioner High Plains Gas's (High Plains) Request for Hearing on Bond Forfeiture in the above-captioned matter.

Answer

1. Respondent DEQ admits paragraphs 1 and 2 in Petitioner's Request for Hearing on Bond Forfeiture.
2. DEQ generally denies any other latent allegations within the Request for Hearing on Bond Forfeiture.

Affirmative Defenses

3. High Plains failed to comply with DEQ Rules of Practice and Procedure Chapter 1, Section 3(c)(iii) when it filed its Request for Hearing on Bond Forfeiture. Accordingly, the EQC should dismiss the Petitioner's Request for Hearing on Bond Forfeiture as deficient.
4. DEQ reserves the right to assert any other defenses that may arise through the discovery of additional evidence.

Request for Scheduling Conference

5. In the event this Petition is not dismissed, DEQ requests a Scheduling Conference to determine the issues to be addressed at the hearing, to schedule discovery and dispositive motions deadlines, and to set a hearing date.

DATED this 28th day of May, 2014.



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Cheyenne, WY 82002
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 28th day of May, 2014, a true and correct copy of the foregoing *Department of Environmental Quality's Response to Petitioner's Request for Hearing* was served by electronic mail to the following;

Todd Parfitt
Director, DEQ
Todd.parfitt@wyo.gov

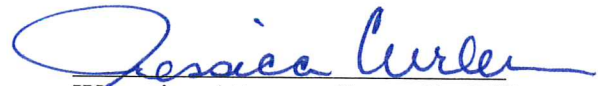
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and by depositing copies of the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, and addressed to the following:

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Wyoming Attorney General's Office