

Montana/Wyoming Issues Panel Discussion

Primary topics

1. What is Wyoming doing that Montana can learn from?
2. Downstream effects if any from development in Wyoming.

A few specific issues

1. Handling discharge water -- does the process differ from state to state?
2. Is there a process set up for consultation with Montana when Wyoming issues a discharge permit?
3. Montana has water quality standards -- are permits in Wyoming being issued in such a way that these standards are not exceeded? If not, why not?
4. Is there enforcement when standards are exceeded?
5. Are there fisheries impacts?
6. Does issuance of permits in Wyoming affect Montana's water quantity? If so, what is being done to mitigate any impacts? Can water mitigation agreements be enforced in Wyoming?
7. If there is an increase in water flowing into Montana, are there plans for capturing the additional water? If rights are adjudicated based on the increased amount of water what happens when there is no more drilling and the quantity decreases? Are permit applicants notified when they apply that the amount of water may decrease in the future (the applicant would have a junior right and would presumably lose their water when the drilling stopped and the water quantity decreased)? Do they need to be notified?