

## Office of the Governor

January 16, 2012

Lisa Jackson, Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

After reviewing the EPA's *Draft Investigation of Ground Water Contamination Near Pavillion, Wyoming (Dec. 2011)* report ("report"), the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sent questions and requests for additional information to EPA Region 8. These questions and requests were developed by scientists and engineers from the DEQ and Wyoming's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. An EPA response to the questions would provide clarification of the findings in the report.

I understood the EPA would timely respond to these questions and requests. However, the majority of those questions remain outstanding. The public comment period closes January 27, 2012.

I ask you to work with me to ensure that the EPA responds to the remaining questions and requests for information as quickly as possible. The response is necessary to conduct a complete analysis and interpretation of the data and findings contained in the report. Those responses will clarify information for both the public and the peer panel as they review and comment on the report. Any EPA response between now and the end of the comment period, which is less than two weeks away, will make it difficult for those commenting to assimilate in the short time remaining. Therefore, I request that EPA, in addition to posting its responses to the questions on its Pavillion webpage now, also extend the public comment period for an additional 30 days from the date requested information is publicly provided. This extension will provide the public and the peer panel opportunity to review additional information provided by EPA's response and to consider it in their comments.

Both Wyoming and the EPA should have a common goal of an unbiased, scientifically supportable finding open to the public. I believe providing answers and information, making

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these available to the public and the peer review panel, and extending the comment period accordingly are the best ways to accomplish this.

I look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew H. Mead', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew H. Mead  
Governor

cc: Senator Michael B. Enzi  
Senator John Barrasso  
Representative Cynthia Lummis  
John Corra, Director, Department of Environmental Quality  
Tom Doll, Director, Oil and Gas Conservation Commission