

Anti-Science Regulation in Albany County, Wyoming

Using government regulation to suppress unwelcome science is not just an issue in far off Washington, D.C. or Cheyenne. This is from land-use regulations right here in Albany County:

“Such scientific evidence shall not include”

(Alb Co. Zoning Res., Chap. 3, Sec. 3-D, 3(e,1))

The scientific evidence being forbidden would help define the western boundary of the Casper Aquifer Protection Area, within which there are special land use restrictions. The County Commission apparently didn't like what that particular data says, so simply banned its use in future analysis. (Details on reverse.)

Let our County Commission know that they need to remove this language from our laws, that facts don't take sides, and that we can't make intelligent decisions without an impartial review of all available data. (Note: this regulation was passed before Mr. Richardson and Ms. Jones joined the Commission; Mr. Chesnut voted against it at the time.)

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Alb Co. Zoning Res., Chap. 3, Sec. 3, Subsection D(3):

“e. Request for Inclusion into the APOZ.

- 1) Process and Findings. If a written request for review is submitted to the County together with a report prepared by a professional geologist or hydrologist, based upon and including verifiable scientific evidence, showing that a site specific parcel of property situated west of the delineated APOZ western boundary of Zone 2 has less than seventy-five (75) feet of Satanka Formation, the County may undertake an independent investigation into the APOZ boundary for that site specific parcel. Such scientific evidence shall not include the thickness of the Satanka Formation within Zone 1 of the APOZ.” [emphasis added]

The “APOZ” is the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone. Zone 1 of the APOZ means the City's wellfields. This language prohibits use of those well logs to identify the thickness of protective layers above the aquifer.

The full Albany County Zoning Resolution is at:

<http://www.co.albany.wy.us/Data/Sites/1/SharedFiles/planning/Zoning%20Resolution.pdf>

For more information on the Casper Aquifer that supplies most or all of the drinking water to 86% of the residents of Albany County, go to albanycountycleanwateradvocates.org