

## **A Letter from the Cheyenne Area Landowner's Coalition.....**

March 3, 2018

Back in 2012 oil was selling for \$107 a barrel. Out of nowhere "landmen" representing the various oil companies started coming to people's doors offering pro forma leases for landowners' minerals and surface access agreements. Some blindly signed these leases and agreements, which highly favored the oil companies. At the same time, representatives of seismic surveying companies approached landowners, offering a pittance for the right to come onto their property for the purpose of seismic testing. Some resisted and recognized the need to get together with others finding themselves in similar situations. Thus in 2012 the Cheyenne Area Landowner's Coalition (CALC) was born, bylaws created, and a Board of Directors elected. Very soon thereafter, the need for legal expertise and organizing was recognized, which led to affiliation of the Cheyenne Area Landowner's Coalition with the Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC).

Together these two organizations have addressed many issues, including bonding requirements for oil companies, water testing, remediation of property post drilling, setbacks from occupied buildings, and communication with landowners living near oil and gas drilling operations. Members of the Coalition met with the Laramie County Commissioners, the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and the State Legislature.

Then in about 2015 the price of a barrel of oil began to plummet, reaching its lowest point of \$26 a barrel in February of 2016. Oil and gas exploration diminished greatly and many people believed that the problems associated with oil development in Laramie County would disappear. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Behind the scene, EOG Resources, Samson Energy, Ward Petroleum, Anadarko, and perhaps others are busy petitioning the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission for drilling and spacing units, applications to drill (APD), and "forced pooling". The price of a barrel of oil now averages about \$62 a barrel, and there is evidence of significant renewed interest in drilling in Laramie County.

As of February 27, 2018, 4,477 APDs /permits are either approved or pending approval by the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission in Laramie County. This volume of activity is second only to Converse County. The Cheyenne Area Landowner's Coalition, in conjunction with the Powder River Basin Resource Council, is actively concerned with keeping EOG Resources from gaining approval for two injection wells in Laramie County, which have the potential to inject up to 25,000 barrels (1,050,000 gallons) per day of toxic waste water from oil drilling operations into an aquifer merely 5000 feet below the surface, thereby threatening a potential future source of potable drinking water. The handwriting is on the wall: oil and gas drilling is not going away any time soon. In fact, given the current price of a barrel of oil, drilling is occurring at an increasing rate. The need for active participation in the Cheyenne Area Landowner's Coalition has never been greater.

Becoming involved with the Cheyenne Area Landowner's Coalition is in everyone's interest.

Alex Bowler for the Board of the  
Cheyenne Area Landowner's Coalition