

Jesse Juen
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

July 28, 2014

Dear Director Juen,

I am a disabled Vietnam Veteran as well as a landowner in Rio Arriba County. I'm extremely upset over the prospect that fracking may become a real part of living here. I moved here following treatment of two cancers and triple by-pass heart surgery, all related to exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange during my service in Vietnam. Rio Arriba County is where I had hoped to find peace in my closing years but that, and the better well being of everyone in the area is threatened by activities perpetrated by people living outside the region.

I grew up among the septic strip mines in Western Pennsylvania. I've also spent the past forty years working as freelance Photojournalist, often reporting on similar issues both here and abroad. I covered the coal/oil controversy when I lived in Montana and have seen firsthand how communities, very much like those in this region, get disrupted when such technology moves in.

I understand that 13 parcels in the Santa Fe National Forest are up for lease sale in the October 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale through the BLM Farmington Field Office. I am writing to ask that these 13 parcels (NM-201410-001, -004, -005, -006, -007, -008, -009, -010, -011, -012, -013, -014, -015) be deferred for many reasons.

First and foremost, fracking will clearly damage the quality and quantity of our water. We have been in drought conditions for some time and fracking will only worsen an already bad situation. Fracking risks poisoning our water and the water of all users downstream. Our fire danger has increased with the drought and it is known that flaring, commonly used in fracking, can cause fires and affects air quality. Earthquakes caused by fracking are another known. There will be spills and the introduction of carcinogens to the ground water. A direct threat to everything and everyone living here.

The finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the October 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale is not adequately supported by the Environmental Assessment as it now stands. These parcels, which are in the same geologic and geographic area as 22 other parcels that were deferred, also need to be deferred in order to protect the Rio Chama Watershed east of the Continental Divide. Our quality of life depends on it.

In closing, part of the reason I settled here was because of the large community of veterans already present. I did not move here to die. I spent my life's savings on a place where I hope to find peace living out the last years of my life. Fracking promises to ruin that plus shorten the lives of men and women already shortened by service to country.

Respectfully,



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