

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

August 6, 2014

Dear Director Juen,

My name is Paul Basile, and I am writing to protest the proposed sales of parcels NM-201410-001, 004 thru 015 that will be offered up for lease in the BLM Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, October 22, 2014.

### **Interest in Protesting**

While I am a new resident of Rio Arriba County, after spending 9 years as a resident of Santa Fe County, I am very much aware of the environmental issues related to the granting of Oil and Gas Leases and concerned that, without protest, we may be subject to the innumerable detrimental effects that the granting of these leases who impose.

### **Reasons for Protesting**

I understand the importance of clean water, and a functioning ecosystem for the health of not only the area in question, but also all the "downstream" communities. Without clean water we cannot hope to survive, as we currently live with a limited amount of water in our part of the world, and I am concerned about the 2-10 million gallons of water that is used for each well in this process. I highly protest this misuse of the limited resource of water, not to mention the high risk of poisoning that water now and for generations to come.

I also find it an egregious use of corporate and economic power that oil and gas companies are not legally required to disclose the chemicals they inject into the wells! In 2011 the House of Representatives reported that of 2,500 fracking products, 650 contain known carcinogens. Spills in New Mexico's oil and gas fields set records in 2012, with nearly 700 self-reported accidents. At least thirty reported

spills during 2011 and 2012 impacted a waterway or a groundwater supply. Toxic waste water will be produced by the millions of gallons and there is no reference in the BLM Assessment to how they will dispose of it.

While new to the area, I have discovered that the nearby Abiquiu Reservoir and Heron Lake are placed near several known fault lines. What is concerning is that Injection wells, which are often used to dispose of waste-water, as well as degradation of bedrock, are known to cause seismic activity. Earthquakes have not been addressed at all in the BLM Environmental Assessment (EA). Imagine the impacts that earthquakes could have on these dams and the catastrophic effects for residents and downstream water users.

Director Juen, there are so many reasons NOT to sell the proposed leases. Information that I have regarding the assumed economic benefits are clearly outweighed by the aforementioned concerns, as well as the damage to our air quality, our soil resources, our wildlife, and our precious cultural resources and landscapes.

I again protest and ask you to defer the 13 parcels up for lease in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale.

Sincerely,

Paul Basile

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul Basile', with a stylized, cursive script.

Please send your mandatory response to my address:

P.O. Box 301  
Medanales, NM, 87548