

Carolyn
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Jesse Juen, New Mexico BLM State Director
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I would like to register my opinion on the proposed October 22, 2014 lease sale of parcels for oil and gas exploration near Gallina and Cebolla. Having researched the process, I am aware should oil or gas be discovered that the methods used to extract the resource would involve fracking.

I am vehemently opposed to fracking in New Mexico, specifically so near our area and healthy aquifers. I have seen videos and read reports about the methodology and effects of fracking and am rather stunned that it is considered a viable and safe method to obtain these resources.

The National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) just released information stating the EPA does not require oil companies to disclose what they use in the "chemical cocktails" used during the fracking process. The NRDC also stated that "currently more than 15 million Americans live within a mile of a fracking site." (*Source: July 2014, NRDC Bio News, monthly update for Biogem Defenders*).

Pumping chemicals into the earth with potential contamination to aquifers, and we as citizens are kept from knowing what is in the mix? It is no wonder we read stories about families who can light the drinking water coming from their faucets in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio, and cannot drink or bath safely without hauling water into their homes.

What is clear is that money rules the day and these companies have free reign – our politicians have vested interest with the corporations who are lobbying and feeding them the line that fracking is "safe".

For whom? Those states where there are now an inordinate number of earthquakes which have increased in proportion to the number of fracking sites in places like Oklahoma? Or perhaps again those people whose homes are now worthless due to the tap water being undrinkable in Pennsylvania? For those in Colorado who have streams which have gas bubbling out of them due to the effects of "fracking" - no doubt harming the local habitats?

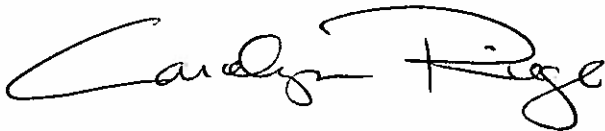
Interestingly I have not heard of any of the people living near fracking sites standing up to declare, that indeed it is safe, but rather see footage of people in tears, homes left abandoned and families worried what they will do. And I worry that we in New Mexico will be next.

Visionaries and scientists are predicting that future wars will be fought over water, the precious resource that no living thing on this earth can live without. I believe the war has already begun. That the interests of public safety are being overlooked in order to obtain more oil and gas, while underutilizing alternative sources of energy.

We have such great intelligent minds in this country who can no doubt create new energy options. We simply need to adapt as all things in nature do, to survive in the long term.

Again, I would like to register my opposition to the lease sale of parcels for oil and gas exploration near Gallina and Cebolla proposed on October 22, 2014.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn Riege". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Riege".