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New Rec'd 08/06/14

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

7/30/14

Dear Director Juen,

I am writing to protest the inclusion of 13 parcels in the Santa Fe Nat. Forest that are up for lease sale in Oct. 2014 (Farmington Field Office). The parcels are NM-201410-001, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014 and 015. These remaining parcels east of the Continental Divide should be deferred for the same reason the other 22 parcels were: geologic and geographic concerns, that threaten our aquifer and our health.

My wife and I have lived outside El Rito, NM for the past 7 years. We depend on our acequia and municipal water systems to be clean and safe. Many of our neighbors are poor, and could not afford any added expenses due to a contaminated water supply. We live here; the gas companies get 5-10 years out of their wells and then they leave, and we are left with whatever contaminants they have injected into the earth. Downriver too. Water is precious around here, and hydro-fracking is too risky. The gas companies exploit poor areas with the promise of jobs; we need jobs, but we are not so desperate as to turn over our land and water to people who would poison it. The hazards to human health from fracking are very well documented; this would seem to be a public safety issue you should not ignore. We depend on our government to protect us; if you don't, we stop believing in you, and from there we slide into chaos. Please consider the risks involved here are just too great, not only for Rio Arriba Co., but for Santa Fe and Albuquerque too.

A finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Oct. 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale is not adequately supported by the Environmental Assessment as it now stands.

Sincerely,

Art Burton
PO Box 261
270 SR 110
El Rito, NM 87530
575-581-9521