

Jesse Juen
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
Telefax: 505.954.2010

August 9, 2014

Dear Director Juen:

May I introduce myself? I am **Patricia Engelking** aka Patsy. I have been a **resident** in the Northeast Heights of Albuquerque at 5609 Amigo Way NE for over 20 years. I am concerned about the inclusion of the 13 parcels in the Santa Fe National Forest that are for lease sale in the October 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale/ Farmington Field Office. These parcels are:

NM-201410-001	NM-201410-004	NM- 201410-005
NM-201410-007	NM-201410-006	NM-201410-008
NM-201410-009	NM-201410-010	NM-201410-011
NM-201410-012	NM-201410-013	NM-201410-014
NM-201410-015		

I am asking that these remaining parcels, east of the Continental Divide, be deferred for the same reasons that the other 22 parcels were deferred, as they are in the same geologic and geographic location.

My reason to support this protest is concern for water quality and quantity. We have recently completed the Chama River project, which will bring water into Albuquerque from the areas east of the Continental Divide. This was done to save our drinking supply from the aquifers, which were being depleted. I don't need to remind anyone that we live in the desert. Water is very precious. We have a very short supply. We appeal for the watershed east of the Continental Divide to be protected, because farms and humans depend on the Rio Grande River, which shares much of the same watershed as the Chama River.

If these parcels are not deferred, they will be available to the oil and gas companies for exploring and for fracking as deemed necessary by the oil and gas companies. Fracking risks poisoning our water and that of millions of downstream users. Around our nation, fracking is taking a terrible toll in the suffering of families, livestock and other animals of the forest. Not only does fracking contaminate the well water supply through the release of carcinogens, it enters the ground water. Where does it go from there? Millions of gallons of water are required for each proposed well. In 2011 the House of Representatives reported that of 2,500 fracking products, 650 contain known carcinogens. The millions of gallons will produce toxic wastewater and there is no reference in the BLM Assessment as to how it will be disposed.

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One more reason of protest is for the protection of the forest. Fracking disrupts communities by increasing noise pollution, and traffic overstresses the infrastructure. Please don't let the big rig trucks come in and trample our beautiful forest and endanger the wildlife. Flaring, which oil and gas companies commonly use, is an extreme fire hazard to the Rio Arriba Forests.

A 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. Please defer the sale of the said 13 parcels of land.

Patricia Engelking
Sincerely,

Patricia Engelking
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