

July 8, 2014

cc: David Evans, Dist. Mgr. BLM
RA Co. Commissioner Barney Trujillo
RA Co. Commissioner Alfredo Montoya
RA Co. Commissioner Danny Garcia

To the BLM, Mr. Juen,

I have several areas of concern regarding the sale of oil and gas leases by the BLM in northern New Mexico:

- 1) Water must be considered a priceless, finite, irreplaceable resource. The recharge rate of water wells in this area is typically slow. Rain/snow fall is insufficient to sustain current and projected population, let alone be used in the enormous quantities required for fracking or other oil/gas development. In these conditions, use of surface OR underground water for oil/gas production is foolish.
- 2) The pollution of water by fracking is no longer merely theoretical - it happens. The BLM needs to catch up with good science and ban fracking everywhere.
- 3) Native American archaeological sites are also non-renewable resources. Any disturbance, above or below ground level, creates permanent destruction. Any area shown to have these resources should be closed to any development.
- 4) The entities responsible for regulating, monitoring, and enforcing the codes, resolutions, and laws being considered here and elsewhere (BLM, local counties, US Forest Service, etc.) are chronically short of staff. The practice of the oil/gas industry policing itself is obviously idiotic. Therefore the safest available course of action for long-term preservation of resources is no new oil/gas development.
- 5) The logic we have heard, "Because we need the money for schools" is insufficient and fallacious to justify the risk of destruction of our children's heritage and safety. What good will their education do if they can't drink the water or grow food? We need to fund education by alternate means (e.g. re-directing state and local funds from other areas, increasing the profit-share the oil/gas industry pays...aren't they currently making a healthy profit?).
- 6) Continuing the practice of extracting the last drop of fossil fuel from the planet before making sufficient investment in renewables is a disastrous example of self-sabotage. We need to use the last of the fossil fuels to create infrastructure for the transition to renewables. Our grandchildren will blame us if we don't.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Caroline Wareham
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