

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

8/11/2014

Dear Director Juen,

My name is Katherine Eagleson. I am writing to protest the proposed sale of parcels NM-201410-001, 004 through 015 that will be offered up for lease in the BLM competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, October 22, 2014.

I have been a resident of Rio Arriba County near Youngsville, NM for 26 years. I live on several hundred acres where I have horses, sheep, poultry and meat rabbits. While these animals do not provide me an income, they are important food sources for me and my family.

Reason for Protest

I frequently need to travel to Farmington from Youngsville on Highway 550. It never ceases to amaze me that gas is still flared from wells along that road. Increasing the potential for more flaring from wells nearer my home may impact air quality. While this is a concern, the most pressing problem is the use and possible pollution of water.

Given that less than 2% of New Mexico's land base is wetland/ waterway. Any activity that impacts water must be very carefully evaluated. We simply do not have the millions of gallons of water to waste that each well requires. Hydraulic fracturing employs chemicals with known carcinogenic properties. Any pollution to ground water and surface water from drilling and hydraulic fracturing is unacceptable. Our aquifer lies directly beneath the proposed drilling areas. Our waterways supply our livestock and homes. We cannot trade our water resources for oil and gas.

As the director of an organization benefiting wildlife, I cannot stress too strongly the impact that drilling activities can have on wildlife. It fragments habitats with roads and well pads. The noise and activity discourages nesting activities of many raptors, other birds and some mammals. Obviously, pollution of ground water will have profound effects. Wildlife is already stressed by drought, wildfire and human encroachment. It cannot sustain more pressure.

We do not need this oil and gas. It will not have any impact on resources in our country and excellent alternatives exist. I have lived completely off the grid for 26 years. My small, reliable and affordable solar system provides all the power I need.

The reasons for denying this lease sale far outweigh the benefits. The Environmental Assessment does not support the finding of No Significant Impact, the potential for water and air pollution is high, the impact on wildlife is always negative and there is no compelling need for this gas/oil.

I request that you defer the 13 parcels up for lease in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Eagleson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katherine" written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name "Eagleson" written more fully.

Katherine Eagleson  
P.O. Box 38  
Youngsville, NM 87064