

July 21, 2014

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I am strongly against the proposed October 22, 2014 lease sale of parcels for oil and gas exploration near Gallina and Cebolla. It is my understanding that if oil or gas were discovered, the extraction method used would be hydraulic fracturing or "fracking". There is overwhelming scientific evidence that concludes that the fracking process is extremely dangerous, damages the environment, and causes irreversible harm to communities adjacent and downstream (down aquifer) from the fracking site.

The practice of fracking to extract natural gas has been proven to contaminate whole aquifers with flammable gas as well as a cocktail of chemicals to the point of rendering well water non potable by the common standards provided by the EPA.

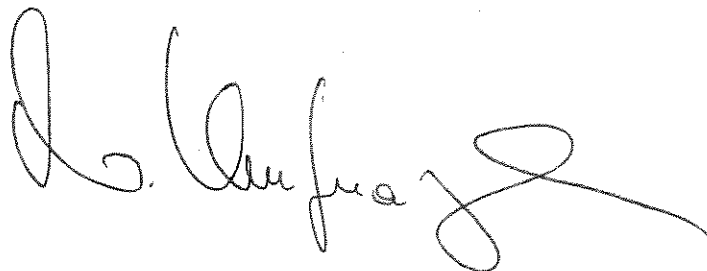
In a state like NM, where water is scarce to begin with, it would be absolutely ludicrous to contaminate the ground water in order to extract a non renewable energy source, while at the same time sunshine is so abundant that it could supply way more renewable energy than ever could be provided by extracting gas by fracking.

As a resident of Rio Arriba County I absolutely do not want to wake up one day to foul water and toxic air.

In conclusion I recommend that the BLM considers NOT proceeding with a lease sale in these sensitive areas until independent studies show "No Significant Impact" to the environment and the test results have been shared with the public.

My vote is to cancel the lease sale permanently and invest our resources in developing our rich potential for solar and wind energy solutions in New Mexico. The impacts from these industries are minimal compared to the oil and gas industries.

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N. Hufnagl', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.