

Marilyn Phillips & John S. George, PhD.
39 Private Drive 1680
PO Box 1428
Abiquiú, NM 87510

August 9, 2014

Attn: Jesse Juen, NM BLM State Director
301 Dinosaur Trail
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Juen,

We are writing to protest the proposed sale of leases of parcels NM-201410-001, 004 thru 015 that will be offered up in the BLM Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, October 22, 2014.

We live by the Río Chama in Abiquiú and are continually aware of the flow of water past our property; sometimes a trickle and sometimes a flood. We are dependent on well water for domestic use and have irrigation rights for some of our property. We use some solar for heating and are installing more to minimize our use of fossil fuels. This area has been in an extreme drought situation for several years and we are cognizant of every drop of water that we use. The thought of this precious resource being contaminated by extraction processes is abhorrent to us. The suggestion that millions of gallons would be used in the process is beyond belief. This water is life for us, our pets, our property, this community.

We are not experts on the fracking process but have read a lot about it; there are a lot of concerns in reports we have seen. The increase in earthquakes in areas near fracking operations is alarming; if the dam at Abiquiú Lake ruptured, the impact downstream would be devastating. Because the oil and gas is deposited in the shale above the aquifer, the use of chemicals in the process could get into the aquifer, the source of our drinking water, and run off into streams and rivers. Downstream of drilling near the Río Gallina are the Río Chama and Río Grande, principal water source for over half of the people in the State. The air will be polluted by the burn off of unwanted gases. There is the constant danger of fire in this parched, drought-stricken land. The two-lane roads and bridges in this rural area are not built to stand constant use by the heavy trucks required by this industry, nor is there the commercial, medical or education infrastructure for an influx of workers into the area.

On balance we see no net benefits in production of oil and gas in this region and request that the Lease Sale of the remaining 13 parcels be deferred. The products would not be utilized locally, the by-products are too poisonous and noxious to tolerate and the costs and risks of an extractive industry in an agrarian community, where the environment of the earth, sky and water is of utmost importance, make this an unacceptable proposal. We believe that the BLM has not fulfilled its responsibility in the Environmental Assessment to verify that studies conducted truly substantiate a "finding of no significant impact" (FONSI) when it is obvious to us that the impact may be very significant.

Yours sincerely,


Marilyn Phillips


John S. George, PhD.