

Jesse Juen
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

August 8, 2014

Dear Director Juen,

My name is Harry Holden and I am writing to you regarding the proposed sales of parcels NM-201410-001, 004 thru 015. Specifically, I would like to express my objections and to officially protest the proposed sale of these parcels when they are offered up for lease in the BLM Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, October 22, 2014.

I own approximately 10.34 acres of land adjacent to Abiquiu Lake. I am currently a part-time resident in my home on this land, and it is my plan to live in my home here full-time upon my retirement from teaching. In order for me to be able to realize this dream, which I have worked very hard for over the last two decades, the delicate ecosystem of the land and its resources must be protected from the dangers inherent in hydraulic fracturing. The existing Environmental Assessment does not support a finding of No Significant Impact for the October 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale. Consequently, my land and home would be put at risk if the proposed sale were to be allowed.

In addition to the obvious threat to the availability and quality of water in the region, activities associated with hydraulic fracturing are known factors in a dramatic increase in the number of earthquakes in areas where hydraulic fracturing has been permitted. In particular, the disposal of drilling waste water has been scientifically linked to earthquakes.

For example, a number of earthquakes have occurred in the Barnett Shale area near the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas metropolitan area, where I live and work when I am not at Abiquiu Lake. Since December, 2013, more than 300 earthquakes have been reported in the area. These earthquakes occurred near faults that had previously been dormant for centuries—until hydraulic fracturing was permitted in the region. Similar outbreaks of earthquakes have been recorded in areas of Colorado, Oklahoma, Ohio, and Arkansas where hydraulic fracturing is allowed.

The geology of northern New Mexico suggests that this area would be at even greater risk for significant seismic activity, with potentially devastating results for all land and homeowners in the region. Furthermore, given the proximity of the Abiquiu Lake dam, earthquakes could have serious consequences far beyond the Abiquiu Lake area.

In closing, I protest the proposed sale in the strongest possible terms and implore you to defer the 13 parcels up for lease in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale.

Sincerely,

Harry L. Holden
Harry L. Holden

Please send a response indicating receipt of this correspondence to my address:

2400 Knight St.
Dallas, TX 75219

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