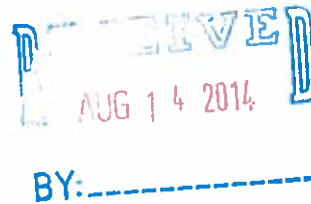


Jesse Juen  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
P.O. Box 27115  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502



August 13, 2014

Dear Director Juen:

My name is Christy Wall, and I'm a resident of Abiquiu, NM. I am writing to strongly protest the proposed sales of parcels NM-201410-001, 004-015 near Gallina which are scheduled to be offered up for lease in the BLM Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale on October 22, 2014.

**Interest in the Area**

I (like many residents of New Mexico) live in the Rio Chama/Rio Grande watersheds, which are downstream of the proposed parcels. Additionally, I live in Abiquiu below Abiquiu Dam. My family and I would be affected by any adverse effects to our water and/or geologic activity that could take place as a result of any sort of drilling activity.

**Reasons for Protesting**

I am not satisfied with the Environmental Assessment conducted in this region. Shallow drilling above the aquifer that feeds the Rio Chama/Rio Grande could affect the water quality downstream. The ways in which water moves through this part of the hydrosphere are not well known, and these parcels must not be leased for any sort of drilling activity until we are certain that it will not impact our water, especially since water is such a precious, limited resource in New Mexico.

Additionally, many of the methods used to extract oil and gas require the use of vast quantities of water. Allowing these activities in the face of climate change, which is projected to dramatically reduce our already scarce water supplies in the Southwest U.S., is just not smart. In fact, the reduced availability of water for the Southwest U.S. is one of the key messages from the recently released National Climate Assessment: "Snowpack and streamflow amounts are projected to decline in parts of the Southwest, decreasing surface water supply reliability for cities, agriculture, and ecosystems." (For the full report, please visit <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/highlights/regions/southwest>)

I'm sure you are aware that the majority of climate change is unarguably anthropogenic in nature. As a scientist in atmospheric science who is active in the research community, I

know that the release of both CO<sub>2</sub> and methane (a vast amount of which is produced by the natural gas industry) are culprits, thanks to their unique molecular structures. Oil and gas are on their way out the door, and leasing new parcels for development doesn't make sense.

In the face of our changing climate, it is dangerously negligent to allow the industry that's responsible for our climate change problem to have access to our public lands and use of our water, which will be further limited by this same industry.

Additionally, after having spent many years living in Oklahoma, I have questions about the processes of hydraulic fracturing, wastewater injection, and earthquakes. The correlation between new fracturing and injection wells and the incidence of earthquakes in central Oklahoma is rather convincing, and this issue (pumping pressurized water into rock) needs more investigation, especially considering the potential adverse risks.

**Leasing these parcels is potentially hazardous for the residents in the area and is decidedly shortsighted in the face of climate change. For these reasons, I vehemently oppose the lease of the 13 parcels up in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale.**

Sincerely,



Christy Wall, Ph.D.

Please address your response to:

Christy Wall  
P.O. Box 1421  
Abiquiu, NM 87510