

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

7/27/2014

Dear Director Juen,

My name is Sam Berne and my address is 5 Caminito Del Angel, Tesuque, New Mexico. I am a full-time resident and landowner here in Tesuque for the past 19 years and have been involved in local New Mexico environmental causes all during that time. I am writing to protest the inclusion of the 13 parcels in the Santa Fe National Forest that are up for lease sale in the October 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale/Farmington Field Office. The parcels are NM-201410-001, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, and 015. I am demanding that these remaining parcels east of the Continental Divide be deferred for the same reason that the other 22 parcels were deferred. The reasoning behind this demand is that these parcels are in the same geographic and geologic location.

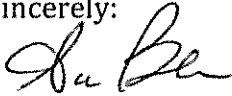
I feel strongly that it is my civic duty and obligation as a resident of this region to demand the protection of our regional watershed. After studying the issue of hydro-fracking and the evidence-based documentation of the potential hazards to human health and the environment using this method to extract what little fossil fuels remain, I have come to the conclusion that it is not worth the risks involved. This method of extraction has been around long enough for multiple health risks to be well documented. I would like to point out as well that Rio Arriba County is not an economically rich county. Many of my neighbors live below the poverty line and cannot afford to deal with the documented health risks associated with fracking. In the end it is a public safety issue that would effect, in a disproportionate way, a lower income population and that does not seem at all fair or just.

I would also like you to consider that with the approval of these leases should come the knowledge, on your part, that the effects will be experienced not just locally but downriver as well. We consider ourselves here both in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties as northern gatekeepers to clean water flowing south. We are not only responsible for protecting our local families but the families in Espanola, Santa Fe, and south and we take that responsibility seriously. I am unsure that the private companies potentially taking advantage of these leases would be as invested in our clean air and water. The simple fact that the chemicals used in fracking are considered "proprietary" makes it very obvious to me that the industry is not concerned with my health or the health of my neighbors to the south. I also am not seeing any reference in the BLM Assessment as to how the toxic waste-water produced via hydro-fracking will be disposed of let alone a description of what the

lining used in the tailings ponds is made of. Both of these are important details if you are living here.

I understand that it is within your power as the sales agent to defer these remaining parcels. I demand that you consider the potential health and environmental risks to our watershed's well being, and therefore ours, and move to defer these leases. It simply does not make sense to invite an industry into our watershed that has so much documented potential to do harm. We live in a delicate, desert environment with limited and precious water resources. We have too much at risk for what looks like very little pay-off for the Oil and Gas Industry. A finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the October 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale is not adequately supported by the Environmental Assessment as it now stands.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Berne', written in a cursive style.

Sam Berne  
PO Box 458  
Tesuque, NM 87574  
sberneod@cybermesa.com