

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

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STATE OFFICE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

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Dear Director Juen,

My name is Barbara Ramsey and I am writing to protest the proposed sales of parcels NM-201410-001, 004 thru 015 that will be offered up for lease in the BLM Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, October 22, 2014.

Interest in Protesting

I am a recent landowner in Abiquiu. My husband and I purchased this land as our final retirement home where we plan to grow our own food and live as naturally as possible. We chose this area to get away from the pollution, traffic, over population, earthquakes, and chaos of California. The clean pure well water; fresh clean air; abundant wildlife; diverse landscape, environment, and plant life are all reasons why we chose to invest our final retirement money here in Abiquiu. Therefore, I am very concerned at the possible use of the above-mentioned BLM land for natural gas mining or "fracking" as I believe this will ruin all the things for which I moved to Abiquiu.

Reasons for Protesting

I deeply understand the importance of clean water, and a health functioning ecosystem to my family and the community of Abiquiu. Without clean water neither my family nor my community can hope to thrive. My husband and I are very aware of just how precious and limited our most essential resource, water, is. I am appalled by the 2-10 million gallons of water that is wasted in each fracking well. I strongly protest this misuse of the limited resource of water.

Chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing are known to cause cancer, neurological, and other health problems. There have been many examples of spills and groundwater contamination, despite the efforts of private oil and gas companies. The risk of polluting our precious water is too great. If our water is affected it is the residents who will have to live with the consequences, not these companies.

The waters in Gallina and Regina flow into the Rio Chama and any pollution at these locations will also affect my community, which is downstream.

Our forests are vulnerable to forest fires because of extreme drought, and the hydraulic fracturing process involves many fire risks. Wells have exploded and caught fire, and the flaring of natural gas burnoff can cause the dry forest to catch fire. After a fire burns the exposed soil can cause flooding that also pollutes our rivers.

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.

I find the way the gas companies have taken family land, poisoned residents, and ruined the environment to be shameful, dishonest, and criminal. Don't let this continue! Don't let the wealthy few ruin what belongs to the many. Listen to what the majority of the people want. Listen to your own conscience. Would you want a fracking mine in your backyard? Defer the 13 parcels up for lease in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ramsey
Barbara Ramsey
POB 1151
Abiquiu, NM 87510