

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

8/11/2014

Dear Director Juen,

My name is John Ussery 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 have been a resident of El Rito NM since 1976 when I chose this place to be my home because of its natural beauty and the unsullied state of its near pristine environment. I swim often in the Abiquiu reservoir and find joy and comfort in knowing that its waters are clean and pure. I have a daughter and two grandchildren who live in northern New Mexico and I wish them to live long healthy lives in this land that we love.

**Reasons for Protesting**

In adapting to life in the high desert that is northern New Mexico it has been necessary to accept that water availability is limited, and being required for life, it is therefore precious. We need to respect our watersheds and protect them so what limited water resources we have will remain useable for generations to come. I am concerned about the 2-10 million gallons of water that would be used for each of the many wells that these leases would allow and the pollution of the watershed that may occur. I highly protest this misuse of the limited resource of water.

I am even more concerned by the lack of any proven means of remediation our watersheds and aquifers if they are in any way damaged through fracking. Having seen the BILLIONS of DOLLARS being spent on trying to remediate the multitude of nuclear waste sites in Los Alamos, I know that whatever fines a drilling company would have to pay would do little or nothing to resolve any water quality problems they may cause. If fined, being a corporation, they have the easy option of bankruptcy to enable them to simply walk away from a problem that may cause permanent damage to the life and property of everyone who lives in the area.

Knowing the enormous amount of time and money spent on remediation of the TCE discharge done by a single dry cleaning shop at what is now the Superfund site in Espanola, it is hard to image the costs that may be incurred trying to remediate a fracking well that had pumped millions of gallons directly into a water table. The nuclear waste contamination at Los Alamos was created in part by ignorance of potential consequences, but it can be somewhat justified by the fact that they were trying to end a world war. The recent failure of WIPP has shown that more than 50 years later they still haven't found a way to safely clean

up that mess. Fracking is now being done with almost as little understanding of its potential effects. From current experience elsewhere it has been found that the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing are known to cause cancer, neurological and other health problems. In the light of the currently unknown extent of potential consequences, BLM has NOT fulfilled its responsibility to verify that studies conducted truly substantiate a "finding of no significant impact" (FONSI),

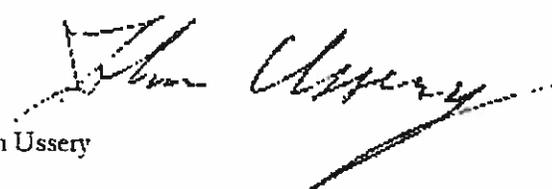
There have been many examples of spills and groundwater contamination, despite the efforts of private oil and gas companies. Research is still being done on medical and environmental effects of fracking and may still turn out to present problems far greater than now imagined. Even the proposed ruling states that there is minimal benefit that may be derived from the fuels extracted from the proposed drilling, and there are many alternatives available to provide permanent safe and clean sources of energy. A commitment to utilizing biomass energy from the thinning of our forests would help prevent wildfires, create thousands of jobs and preserve our culture and our environment instead of putting our children's future at risk.

I spent over a decade as the Chief Information Officer for Las Clinicas del Norte and implemented the utilization of computers, networks and the Internet throughout its system. In training my technical staff I would always tell them not to make changes in the system without providing a backup and a means for correcting mistakes if something were to go wrong. "Never go forward if you don't have a reverse" In your current proposed action I see no provision for a way to bring our limited water sources back to their original pure state if something goes wrong, like it has in so many other places where fracking has been done. (Oklahoma is now subject to frequent EARTHQUAKES!!?) Your analysis is totally incomplete because there is no proposed remediation plan that could actually repair any damage done.

The majority of land area of Rio Arriba County is administered by federal land agencies to who are required to preserve and protect them for the good of the citizens. Please do your duty and save us from the really dire threat of having the quality of the limited water of our precious land being permanently destroyed.

I therefore protest and ask you to defer or cancel the 13 parcels up for lease in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale.

Sincerely,

  
John Ussery

Please send your mandatory response to.

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