

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

August 11, 2014

Dear Director Juen:

My name is Leah Hoffman and I live in Cebolla, New Mexico. My interest in this protest stems from my involvement with the protests against the proposed oil and gas lease sales in my town. As you know, these lease sales have been deferred due to a need for further study of the geology of our area by the BLM Farmington Field Office. I am writing today to protest the inclusion of the 13 parcels in the Santa Fe National Forest that are up for lease sale in the October 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale/Farmington Field Office for many of the same reasons stated in my original protests. These parcels are: NM-201410-001, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, and 015. I am demanding, as a concerned citizen, that these remaining parcels, east of the Continental Divide, be deferred for the same reasons that the other 22 parcels in this proposed sale were deferred, as they are in the same geologic and geographic location.

The BLM need to update the 2003 Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Mancos Shale/Gallup formation RMPA/EIS alternatives. These two studies do not address shallow shale hydraulic fracturing. If the lease sale continues BLM will be in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I am also urging the BLM, as an agent for the Santa Fe National Forest, to apprise them of fact that their studies are as incomplete and outdated as yours.

I am listing below the most glaring and obvious problems I find with the EA for this sale:

WATER – I cannot say too much about this subject: first and foremost, we are in a drought of huge proportions and the need for water that hydrofracking creates cannot be sustained by our fragile watershed. Nor can we risk the pollution of this same watershed, or the real possibility of triggering earthquakes in the region of the Abiquiu Reservoir – the water supply for Albuquerque. As a resident of this community I feel it is our responsibility to protect the waters here for those below us, as well as for future generations ahead of us. Is this not what Best Management Practices on the BLM's part should be?

CHEMICALS – As long as fracking is free from the scrutiny of EPA oversight and The Clean Air and Water Act I will oppose fracking in this area. The danger is WAY TOO GREAT to risk poisoning our precious waters with chemicals kept secret from the public. The chemical we DO know about are, clearly, toxic and, in many cases,

known carcinogens. Taking these facts into account, and also taking into account your own EA's "assumption" that "the No Action Alternative would not affect current domestic production of oil and gas"; how dare you risk all, on my and the American public's behalf, for uncertain gain?

I am also concerned that your EA does not address disposal of the highly toxic waste generated by this industry. This is completely unacceptable and MUST be addressed to the public's satisfaction before any lease sales move forward.

I am also concerned with the oil and gas industry's history regarding spills, both reported and unreported, and the many spills reported that have already impacted New Mexico's waterways or groundwater supplies. None of this has been adequately addressed in this EA.

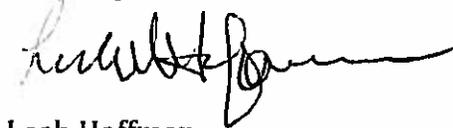
AIR QUALITY – This seems like such a no-brainer to me: flaring in the Santa Fe National Forest? Really!! Besides the obvious risk of fire, this poses a risk to the health and wellbeing of humans and animals in the immediate area. A 3-12 mile radius has already been identified as dangerous.

SOIL RESOURCES – In this high desert climate, soil can be fragile. I am concerned about the heavy impact this industry will have on this area with the onset of multitudes of new roads and traffic and bermed earth, heavy equipment, etc., etc. The scarring to the earth is horrific and unnecessary for all of the reasons mentioned above. The disruption to the land will ensure the erosion of this area and increase the likelihood of disaster when spills and accidents occur.

In general, I object to the disruption our communities will encounter due to the increased noise pollution and traffic we will be subjected to. Our current infrastructure here in Rio Arriba County is barely sufficient as it is to the citizenry's needs. I shudder to think what could happen to our community's safety, overall, with the burdens that the oil and gas industry bring.

A finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the October 22, 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale is not adequately supported by the Environmental Assessment as it now stands.

Sincerely:



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