

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

8/10/2014

Dear Director Juen,

My name is Rebekah Henty 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 an Australian-born, naturalized U.S Citizen and resident of Abiquiu, NM. Of all the places in the world, I have chosen to invest and live in Northern New Mexico for its unique cultural mix and globally-recognized natural beauty.

Reasons for Protesting

The 13 parcels that remain in the October 22, 2014 Lease Sale are in the same geography as the other 22 parcels that were recently deferred by the BLM. The only difference is that these remaining parcels are managed by a different governmental body; the Santa Fe National Forest.

I ask you to look beyond bureaucratic process to the BLM's responsibility to manage public lands in a wise and sustainable way.

The geography of these remaining 13 parcels in the Southern part of the Chama Watershed, as with the other deferred parcels, has not been studied enough to continue with the Lease Sale. The Santa Fe National Forest Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is unwarranted because of a lack of sufficient study.

The BLM, nor any other governmental authority at this point, does not know how, or in which direction, the ground-water flows in this area close to the Continental Divide. Nor where potentially millions of gallons of contaminated "produced" water would flow if hydraulic fracturing went ahead on these leases. It is irresponsible to continue with a Lease Sale without this crucial scientific information.

The BLM has been referring to geography in its EAs and other mandatory documents that are not relevant to the Chama Watershed nor to the shallow shale horizontal hydraulic fracturing technique that would be used if extraction went ahead on these current leases.

According to the Army Corps of Engineers there are numerous fault lines underneath the Abiquiu Reservoir. Fracking is well-documented to increase seismic activity. Do you think drilling, fracturing and degrading bedrock

above an enormous dam with known fault lines makes sound geological sense?

Apart from the risk of earthquakes, consider the downside of polluting the Chama Watershed and thus the water source of millions of New Mexicans and risking forest fire with the practices of flaring and trucks and heavy machinery in the forest. And for what? A meagre cache of fossil fuel, if there is any. Even the exploration, let alone drilling, as you know, is harmful.

Mr Juen, I am someone who has immigrated from a privileged country - Australia - to the United States for the opportunity to live in this magnificent and unique natural landscape. I ask you, is it worth damaging one of the beautiful wild places and sources of pure water that is left to us, to satisfy the demands of bureaucracy and the insatiable appetite for oil and gas that is already well-catered to in San Juan and other parts of New Mexico?

The BLM is one of the most powerful Federal agencies with the power to over-ride the Santa Fe National Forest interests. I ask you to do so as the proper geographic research by any governmental agency has not been done to ensure the safety of the American People in regards to the October 22 Lease Sale.

Surely, you can see the wisdom of leaving the Chama Watershed untouched by gas and oil development and removing these 13 parcels from Sale? Firstly, because they are located in a region that is the clean water source

for the majority of New Mexicans and secondly, because it is a landscape that inspires people world-wide and is far more valuable as a place of wonder, agriculture and recreation.

Keep the Chama Watershed untainted by oil and gas development and consolidate extraction activities in areas that have already been opened up. These 13 parcels in the October 22 Lease Sale represent a precedence for gas and oil development in a fragile Watershed geology that has not been sufficiently studied.

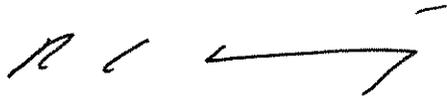
Rio Arriba County Commissioners deliberately cordoned off the area East of the Continental Divide by naming it the "Frontier District" in the County Gas and Oil Ordinance. I ask you to respect their knowing that the geology to the East was different to that of the West and needed to be viewed and treated quite differently.

Look at this world. At this point, some places need to be allocated and kept as sacred. The Rio Chama Watershed is one such place.

Mr Juen, I ask you to do the right thing by New Mexico and trust that, without these 13 parcels in this rare and magnificent Watershed, the world will have enough fuel for another day. But we will never have a pristine landscape and water source back, once it is tainted.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebekah Henty', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rebekah Henty

Please send your mandatory response to my address:
1000 Cordova Pl, #532, Santa Fe, NM 87505