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U.S. Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

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STATE OFFICE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

7/26/2014

Dear Director Juen,

My name is Shelley Schweizer, 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 new resident and home/land owner in Alcalde, New Mexico, and I am farming and raising livestock in the Rio Grande river basin. Part of my income is based upon the integrity and productivity of the land. This is true for many friends and acquaintances that I have in the Rio Chama basin.

Reasons for Protesting

The north-central agricultural area of New Mexico has remained relatively free of fracking for natural gases. Of this fact I am both proud and supportive. It is imperative that it stay that way. I understand the importance of clean water and a functioning ecosystem for the health of our community. Without clean water we cannot hope to thrive in our traditional lands. We live with a limited amount of water in our part of the world, and I am concerned about the 2-10 million gallons of water that is used for each well in this process. I highly 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 will also affect our neighbors down river all throughout the state.

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 burn off can cause the dry forest to catch fire. Our forests are a part of our livelihoods and heritage as we use them for firewood, livestock forage, and wildlife habitats as we have for hundreds of years. After a fire burns the exposed soil can cause flooding that and also pollutes our rivers.

I again protest and ask you to defer the 13 parcels up for lease in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale. I cannot over-emphasize the importance that you act in accordance with this request on behalf of a healthy and safe northern New Mexico future.

Sincerely,


Shelley Schweizer

Please send your mandatory response to my address:

P.O. Box 854
Alcalde, New Mexico
87511