

Laurence

August 13, 2014

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

PD 1622, #45
(PO Box 302)
Abiquiu, NM 87510

To the Attention of:
Jesse Juen,

As a long time land owner (read: 34 years in residence) living in Abiquiu, NM... whose norther property-line borders the Rio Chama for approx. 200 yards along its bank, I am deeply dismayed that the BLM would even consider allowing hydraulic fracturing in our region. Water is such a scarce & precious resource here in the high desert; vital to our livelihoods and our future. The risk of ground, surface and water contamination from the migration of oil, gas and "not-to-be-disclosed" residual "fracking" fluids into fresh water aquifers is of deep concern to me and to my neighbors.

As the Morrison Formation is a vital aquifer in the Rio Chama Watershed,
**I am entirely opposed to the leasing of parcels NM
2014-011, 004 through 015.**

That the BLM is allowing big oil interests to steamroll this highly controversial and risky hydraulic fracturing technology, finding "no significant impact" here in northern New Mexico is beyond reckoning. Despite all the unknowns and the known dangers of "fracking" the oil and gas industry have thus far evaded regulation.

We read of sinkholes and slurry areas all the way from the Cajun Bayou / Grand Bayou to Wyoming to New York state, building up a long list of mega-disasters, spills, blowouts from high volume hydraulic fracturing which has turned whole regions of the country into Sacrifice Zones. Yet oil & gas leaseholders continuing to tout that hydraulic fracturing is safe.

New Mexico features diverse geological phenomenon and many archeological landmarks within its boundaries. The unique beauty of northern New Mexico's vast high desert landscapes has long been a draw for tourist and a backdrop to a flourishing art community & art market... attracting artists of national & international prominence. Tourism for Santa Fe and Rio Arriba County...and points north, is a major engine of our local & regional economies. To see this magnificent landscape blighted by the industrial riggings; the visual & chemical pollution of oil & gas operations would not only be a blow to the tourist trade... it would be a blasphemy against one of the most pristine, unspoiled parts of the country, in the country. (Anyone who doubts this need just to take a ride to the norther most regions of the state, above Farmington, to witness the devastation... an ecological dead zone where the "Land of Enchantment" is no more.)

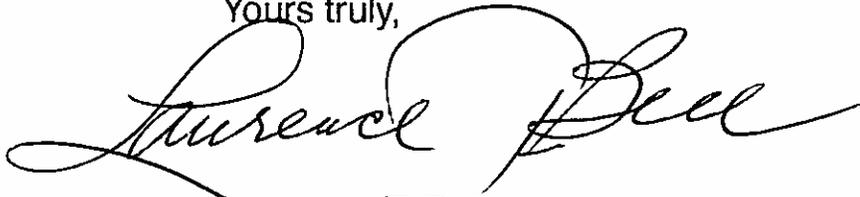
It is alarming how completely the big oil & gas lobbies have captured not only the political process but in many places the regulatory bodies tasked with overseeing the industry.

Hydraulic fracturing is a bad idea for the citizens of Santa Fe & Rio Arriba County and apparently for the country at large as many local jurisdictions have enacted bans and moratoriums in self defense.

It will be us resident taxpayers who will pick up the tab for whatever environmental remediation and serial damage results from the leasing of our public lands. As we've seen elsewhere across the country, when it comes to the oil & gas industry...any losses will be left for the public to struggle with.

It is increasingly obvious that hydraulic fracturing cannot be done without sacrificing our health, our environment, and our economy. New Mexico needs a statewide ban on fracking.

Yours truly,



Laurence T. Bell