

Corinne  
Jesse Juen  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
PO Box 27115  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502  
8/4/2014

Dear Director Juen,

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 resident of Coyote and I believe people deserve clean water, or at least to live free of the fear that they will be poisoned thru the groundwater they drink and air they breathe.

### **Reasons for Protesting**

I have deep and abiding concerns with the decision to allow fracking (and oil and gas industries in general) on public lands for commercial use.

At a time and in a state where **the question of water is the concern** at the forefront of everyone's mind, I am alarmed that an astounding **3-5 million gallons of water** are needed to fracture *a single well*. The U.S Forest Service has declared that Rio Arriba County is experiencing a severe drought. The water used will be locally sourced and permanently contaminated and removed from the hydrologic cycle. Our water is simply too precious for that.

There is also the question of contaminated drinking water. These lands sit directly on top of essential watersheds. Oil and gas companies are not legally required to disclose the chemicals they inject into wells. In 2011 the House of Representatives reported that of 2,500 hydraulic fracturing products, *650 contain known*

*carcinogens*. Spills in New Mexico's oil and gas fields set records in 2012 with nearly 700 self-reported accidents. At least thirty reported spills during 2011 and 2012 impacted a waterway or groundwater supply. Even industry insiders know - **these wells crack**. *It is the norm*. Why would we put the drinking water of New Mexicans at risk?

I am also concerned about geological risks. Hydraulic Fracturing degrades bedrock and has been scientifically linked to dramatic increases in earthquakes. Numerous faults have been detected under the Abiquiu Reservoir. This has not been addressed by the BLM Environmental Assessment (EA). The geology east of the Continental Divide is distinct from the San Juan basin. BLM has not completed the required studies (RPM) to drill in the Mancos shale. There are much greater contamination risks associated with drilling in this very shallow and unique geology. I would further add that a finding of *No Significant Impact* (FONSI) for the Farmington Oil and Gas Lease October 2014 is NOT adequately supported by the Environmental Assessment (EA).

This would be the first significant oil and gas lease in the Rio Chama Watershed. The Taos BLM Field Office has deferred drilling in parcels only 20 miles away from the proposed parcels due to a finding of *incomplete study*. The geology of all the parcels in question is the very *same*.

Beyond the very real threats of irreversible water pollution & quakes – there is the problem of the threat to the forests and surrounding lands. Fracking methods often employ a technique called “**flaming**”. Which is *exactly* what it sounds like. *It is an open flame*, often continuously running, which would be potentially unsupervised in the National Forest, BLM lands & beyond. After the Diego fire this year, everybody in the community would agree that forest fire is serious business. This fact alone, and the idea that this is part of the infrastructure of the industry, should be enough to ban fracking in the forest entirely.

Finally, I would like to add that the kind of jobs that are created by toxic and extractive oil and gas companies have a record of taking so much more from a community than they ever give. The bulk of profits

go out of state & local people are left with low-paying jobs & astronomically costly problems created by the chemicals that companies leave in their wake - problems that often have no solution - water that would give a child nosebleeds if they had to drink it, shower in it.... health risks such as these have been well documented.

I urge you to thoughtfully consider the choice before you and stop the fracking of our public lands and keep this industry from poisoning our water, creating possibly catastrophic geological risks and generally making a toxic mess of our state. I again protest and *ask you to defer the 13 parcels up for lease in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale.*

I hope you will consider the long-term health of the land and people of New Mexico and let poisonous and predatory industries – like the companies that frack - know that we won't buy the lies they are selling any more.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corinne Rosethorn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Corinne Rosethorn  
P.O. Box 173  
Coyote, NM, 87012