

Diane

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

8/12/2014

Dear Director Juen,

I am writing to protest the proposed sales of parcels NM-201410-001, 004 thru 015 that will be offered for lease in the BLM Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, October 22, 2014.

Interest:

I am a resident of Abiquiu, NM. I moved here 5 yrs ago, have 22 acres on the Chama River, and am in the horse business. I am dependent on my water rights to irrigate pasture as well as the normal use of water for livestock and domestic needs. One of the reasons I came here from a rural ranch in Mesa County Colorado was to get away from a town over run by the gas companies and the consequences of their fracking on the ranch land and environment.

Statement of Reasons for my protest:

Had I known Rio Arriba County was endangered by the sale of leases to the oil companies I would not have bought land and a home here. I have lived with the consequences of drilling, fracking, and the resultant disruption to the infrastructure of a quiet, small community.

Not only have I witnessed a radical change to a timeless way of life in a rural community by the influx of transient humans and the impact caused to roads and driving conditions. I saw the irreversible condition to the land of toxic waste irresponsibly handled as well as the consequences of "accidents" that supposedly never could happen.

In regards to the proposed leasing of parcels in Rio Arriba county, I have learned that a finding of No Significant Impact for the Oct 22, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale is not adequately supported by the Environmental Assessment as it now stands. My understanding is there has been no study of the hydrological formation EAST of the Continental Divide to substantiate the harmless sale of these leases. That in fact the Morrison Formation, the aquifer providing water to the Rio Chama and ultimately the Rio Grande lies below the proposed fracking level. Can a person of any intelligence seriously believe this *process would be harmless to the water shed and no toxic problems would occur?*

I personally do not want to risk my horses, my small ranch and my own health to the interests and known irresponsible behavior of the oil companies. Furthermore, my singular situation is small potatoes compared to the potential harm to the vast numbers of people, crops, animals dependent on the supply of the Rio Arriba watershed upon which even Santa Fe county is dependent.

I have witnessed the spin the oil and gas companies, as well as many governmental representatives, have put on the safety precautions that are employed in the process of their fracking projects. Big words and authoritative voices have intimidated many a well meaning but ignorant public enquiry. The facts have not substantiated the claims made by the oil companies. Their purported testimony is, at the very least, often unfounded and not backed by sufficient geological and hydrological scientific study. The consequences such as water pollution, health issues, and wild life mortality are well known in Western Colorado.

I could tell you many a specific story on the impact of drilling as I personally experienced it, both sociologically and environmentally, but want to keep this request relevant to the larger picture which I believe does not bode well for our well being in New Mexico if these leases go through.

I am requesting that you defer the leasing of the stated 13 parcels in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Coe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and a stylized "Coe".

Diana Coe
447 CR 155
POB 1043
Abiquiu, NM, 87510

Please send your mandatory response to my address.