
From: Sharon Berman <duodrone@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2017 1:35 PM
To: Sidney Hill
Subject: Comments on the Proposed Sandoval County Oil and Gas Ordinance

Dear Mr. Hill,

I am a Sandoval County resident. I am opposed to the proposed county oil and gas ordinance.

- As I understand it, the ordinance would allow one sole staffer to approve drilling permits, with no public notification, comment or input. Drilling permits will simply be checked for completeness then approved within 10-days.
 - **I believe that permitting should be approved under a special use provision that allows for public notification, a hearing, and input.**
- As I understand it, the ordinance lacks measures to prevent the contamination of an aquifer nearly 1-million people depend on--the ABQ Aquifer. This poses a serious threat to our drinking water supply because the NM Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) does not require companies to drill test wells for routine oil and gas drilling.
 - **I believe that the ordinance should require oil and gas companies to perform baseline groundwater testing and post-drilling monitoring.**
- As I understand it, the ordinance fines oil and gas companies only \$300 for violations and does not distinguish between minor or major violations. A \$300 fine will not encourage oil and companies to operate as good neighbors. Although the state's maximum fine is \$1000, there has been a large drop in fines collected by NM OCD since 2009 and a sharp increase in the number of spills.
 - **I believe that 1) the ordinance should distinguish clearly the differences between minor and major violations, and 2) the state's maximum fine should be increased at least tenfold, and that 3) NM OCD needs to employ enough staff to collect fines commensurate with the number of spills and other violations committed by oil and gas companies, their contractors and subcontractors.**

Thank you,

Sharon Berman
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