
From: Kari Brodie [<mailto:kabrodie1@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2016 8:48 PM
To: Michael Springfield
Subject: P&Z Meeting 9/6/16 - August 2016 Draft Oil & Gas Ordinance

Good evening Mr. Springfield,

Several citizens and I of Sandoval county have been corresponding with Mr. David Heil on the community website "NextDoor," regarding the Draft Oil & Gas Ordinance. He forwarded your email address to me, so that I can send the following letter to you, in time for the meeting on 9/6/16, regarding my opinions and questions about the ordinance. I hope you take my letter into consideration.

Thank you,

Kari Brodie

Hello folks,

My husband and I recently moved to District 4 and bought a foreclosed home with beautiful back yard mountain views, in January of 2014. After traveling around in the military from assignment to assignment, base to base, (my husband served 22 years in the Air Force), Rio Rancho and our new home that we've been renovating is now our "forever" home.

Recently, I was informed about the Sandoval County Drilling / Gas Ordinance Draft, through a community website called "NextDoor." Back earlier this year, I was pleased and relieved to hear that the Oklahoma-based SandRidge Company was defeated from drilling in Sandoval county. However, things were left hanging with Sandoval County still needing some type of oil/gas drilling/fracking ordinance, as requested by Bernalillo Mayor Jack Torres.

I have some strong concerns, as do many of the citizens of Sandoval County regarding drilling/fracking....

#1) Why is drilling / fracking for oil/gas still being taken into consideration in our county? Obviously, this ordinance is preparing for any type of future drilling /fracking opportunities that may come along. The citizens of Sandoval County do not want drilling / fracking here at all. The list of negative outcomes are just too great compared to the positive outcomes. And once the damage is done **it can not be reversed.**

Here are just a few negatives that were mentioned in an article, in the Rio Rancho Observer - written by Eleanor Bravo - an organizer at Food and Water Watch.

Fracking — now used in most oil and gas exploration in New Mexico — destroys millions of gallons of fresh water by mixing it with sand and some combination of hundreds of chemicals and blasts this concoction underground to shock oil (or gas) out of rock deposits.

Employed here in Rio Rancho, such water-wasting methods will deplete our aquifers. In addition, there is no good way to dispose of the waste fluid that results from these processes. Once it is used for fracking, water can never be safely returned to the water table. It is traditionally injected into wells, which

have been known to leak and contaminate adjacent aquifers. In fact, fracking has already caused extensive pollution to groundwater and waterways in New Mexico and throughout the country. In our drought-stricken state, every drop of groundwater is precious. We cannot afford such profligate use of our public resource.

Sadly, I have learned that the damage caused by oil and gas drilling and fracking doesn't end with water. It is heartbreaking to think of the harms caused to good people's health, and the disruptions suffered by once-peaceful communities.

A battery of health studies tells us that if you are pregnant and live near a gas or oil well, you can expect an increased rate of birth defects, lower birth rates and higher rates of asthma. The chemical-laced fracking fluid contains known carcinogens and endocrine disruptors that have caused serious illness to nearby residents and wildlife.

In addition, drilling rigs mar the countryside and hundreds of trucks bring noise and light pollution to our night skies, and cause wear-and-tear to our roadways.

Also disturbing is the fact that regions that previously experienced little seismic activity have seen (sometimes shocking) increases in earthquake activity after fracking is introduced.

Furthermore, I've attached several links below regarding the numerous negative outcomes of fracking around the nation.

Confirmed: Oklahoma Earthquakes Caused By Fracking - <http://www.ecowatch.com/confirmed-oklahoma-earthquakes-caused-by-fracking-1882034344.html>

Now the state has not only admitted that the injection into deep underground wells of fluid byproducts from drilling operations is behind the quakes, but it put up a website titled [Earthquakes in Oklahoma](#) that is a "one-stop source for information on earthquakes in Oklahoma." The site includes an interactive map that displays the dramatic change not only in the number of earthquakes but in their distribution. Instead of a scattering around the state, they're clustered heavily in areas where drilling operations are disposing of fracking wastewater.

The new website says, in a post dated April 21, "The Oklahoma Geological Survey announced today the majority of recent earthquakes in central and north-central Oklahoma are likely triggered by the injection of produced water in disposal wells."

- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - Between the dates June 17 and June 24, 2015, Oklahoma was jolted by 35 earthquakes greater than magnitude 3.0 due to fracking and fracking wastewater injection activities, the Oklahoma - <http://www.environmentnews.tv/world-news/frackquake-madness-35-fracking-earthquakes-rock-oklahoma-in-a-week-regulators-call-event-a-game-changer/>

- Wind River Basin - Wyoming drinking water is contaminated w/ chemicals linked to hydraulic fracturing ...aka fracking - <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fracking-can-contaminate-drinking-water/>

- In a single year, fracking wells across the country released at least 5.3 billion pounds of the potent greenhouse gas methane, as much global warming pollution as 22 coal-fired power plants.
- <http://www.environmentnewmexico.org/topics/drilling-fracking>

- Fracking damage **already done here in New Mexico** - The "Fracking by the Numbers" report measured other key indicators of fracking threats in New Mexico, including:
3 billion gallons of toxic wastewater generated in 2012,
9,810 tons of air pollution produced in one year,
1.3 billion gallons of fresh water used since 2005,
8,900 acres of land degraded since 2005,
1.7 million tons of global warming pollution since 2005. <http://www.environmentnewmexico.org/news/nmc/fracking-numbers>

- Erin Brockovich - A video of her talking about fracking damage in Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Ohio, Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, Upstate New York, and North Dakota and how communities signed contracts for oil developers to come in to drill/frack, and then community health problems begin, water pollution begins, earthquakes start happening, and there's nothing that can be done, because a contract has been signed to allow the oil developers to

drill/frack in their communities. <http://www.vironews.tv/100813-erin-brockovich-weighs-in-on-fracking-and-gives-praise-to-gasland-the-movie/>

#2) Sandoval County can definitely use new business ventures, but business ventures that are permanently going to damage our environment and the well-being of thousands of people need to be strongly avoided. However, I would like to see more natural energy resources come to our county, such as wind and solar power, which New Mexico has plenty of wind and plenty of sun. This kind of clean, safe, energy won't disrupt our ecosystem or pollute our air, water, or cause earthquakes and structural damage.

#3) I and many other citizens would like to see a **permanent ban** against any and all types of oil / gas drilling / fracking in Sandoval county. Is there a law out there that states we can't ban this type activity in our county? I'd like to know. I feel the ordinance, still allows the door to be open-a-crack, to allow the drilling / fracking opportunity to happen.

#4) The "**5.3 Setbacks**" in the ordinance are a travesty. This drilling could basically be in someone's back yard, just over their property line, not to mention close to their personal well, or even schools. This is something that should definitely be revised, but a ban all together would be much more preferable.

#5) The "**5.5 Road Improvements, Agreements**" listed in the ordinance - I can't help but wonder if there is another agenda the county has with oil/gas companies coming in and having roads created, such as the extension of Paseo Del Volcan out to I-40. Would something like that be paid for by the oil businesses that would come and drill / frack in our area?

Finally, Erin Brockovich mentions the following in the last 10 seconds of her video above...*"That's my message to the communities...I think they feel that the EPA, because they come and make a statement, it's going to save them...nothing's further from the truth. And these communities are going have to start getting really proactive about what's happening in their back yard and take control again... This is my community, my town, my yard, my water, my air, my family, my health, and I'm going to get involved and I'm not going to wait 10 years for the EPA to catch up and come out here and have that "oh crap" moment...you've been polluted all this time."*

Please.....Lets not even go there with drilling and fracking in Sandoval County. Rio Rancho is my "forever" home.

Thank you,

Kari Brodie
District 4