
From: DAWN FOSTER <dawnfoster84@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Sidney Hill
Subject: Comments on the Proposed Sandoval County Oil and Gas Ordinance

I am a Sandoval County resident and retired Environmental Engineer that worked for 25 years cleaning up sites with RCRA and/or TSCA-contaminated soils, surface and groundwaters. No business entity starts out with the intention of contaminating the ground and water underneath or nearby their work area/property, but I am here to tell you that I made a very comfortable living for a very long time evaluating and remediating many sites that were contaminated by some "knowing and willingly" taken actions, but more often by sloppy (often unknowing, untrained) workers, faulty equipment, shoddy handling/disposal practices, having no requirement for pre- and post site monitoring and encountering many, many unforeseen circumstances and accidents.

It is with the above in mind that I ask the Commissioners to carefully consider the following points:

- That the ordinance require more than one staff person to approve drilling permits - in fact the County should require the oil and gas industry permit applicants to completely fund/provide monies to the County, that would be used to hire a dedicated, qualified safety/environmental compliance person(s) (that would report to the County) necessary to review the applications and oversee the work. Furthermore, it is imperative that the application review process include meaningful public notification, comment and/or input. Specifically, permitting should be approved under a special use provision that allows for public notification, a hearing, and input.
- 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. The ordinance should require oil and gas companies to perform **baseline groundwater testing and post-drilling monitoring.**
- The ordinance specify meaningful, deterrent fines - currently oil and gas company fines are only \$300 for violations, and the language does not distinguish between minor or major violations. A \$300 fine does not necessarily encourage oil and companies to operate as good neighbors. Although the state's maximum fine is \$1000 (which is very low when one considers the cost of remediation), there has been a large drop in fines collected by NM OCD since 2009 and a sharp increase in the number of spills.
- The County should require that oil and gas industry applicants provide monies so that the citizenry of Sandoval County public is appropriately compensated for degraded public roads, use of emergency services and preparedness planning, and any County responses necessary to protect it's citizenry regarding potential health and safety issues and other standards.

Thank you for your service and consideration of these and all other comments received from Sandoval County and New Mexico residents - the people for whom you work.

Dawn Foster, P.E.