

July 30, 2020

Judith Stanley

Santa Fe New Mexico

Comments for: OCD Produced Water Hearing July 30, 2020

My name is Judith Stanley. I live in Santa Fe and I am a member of United Church of Santa Fe. I am also affiliated with New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light.

As a member of the faith community, I believe that we are responsible for caring for the earth during our lives and for future generations. None of us can live without clean water. Not surprisingly, water is sacred in faith communities. I urge you to protect the environment and freshwater resources in order to protect public health, as authorized by the Produced Water Act.

We live in a desert, in which potable water is scarce. It is suicidal to take millions of gallons fresh water and render them toxic. It is especially wasteful to create long-term environmental degradation for short-term gain. We are creating toxic waste and leaving it for our children, grandchildren, and untold generations. We don't know what is in this liquid waste, so we don't know how to manage it safely. For this reason, I urge you to prohibit any mixing of produced water (toxic waste) with fresh water – including surface water, groundwater, or rainwater.

Our precious fresh water resources are scarce. I urge you to protect them by requiring that so-called “produced water” be used for hydraulic fracturing. We cannot afford to let the oil and gas industry use fresh water as a one-time use commodity. Water is far too precious to “use up” in this way.

Because we know that spills and leaks happen, we citizens rely on the OCD to implement and enforce measure to prevent such leaks. We need regulations that require that leaks be reported in a timely manner, and the appropriate infrastructure for collecting data and following up on remediation.

Finally, if the OCD does not know what is in this liquid waste, how can the Division protect the environment, citizens, and future generations? We need the OCD to collect data on the quality and quantity of “produced water” from the oil and gas industry. We need to know what is in this liquid in order to know how to handle it safely for now, and for future generations.

We must protect and preserve the sacred environment, which has been entrusted to us by the Creator. We do this for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Judith Stanley