

Valentine, Velvet, EMNRD

From: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 9:19 AM
To: Valentine, Velvet, EMNRD
Subject: FW: [EXT] Submitting Written Public Comment for Venting/Flaring Rule Hearing
Attachments: Clara Sims+Methane Hearing+Public Comment.docx

Case 21528

From: Clara Sims <cesims1122@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Davidson, Florene, EMNRD <florene.davidson@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Submitting Written Public Comment for Venting/Flaring Rule Hearing

Good morning Florene,

I tried to give public comment verbally at the hearing this morning, but there was an issue with my microphone and I was not ultimately able to provide my comment. Therefore, I was told I could submit my public comment in writing to you. You can find it attached in a word document below.

Thanks so much.

Best,
Clara

Hello, my name is Clara Sims, I am twenty three years old, and I live in Los Lunas, NM. I would like to thank the Oil and Gas Commission for this opportunity to provide comment at this hearing.

As a person of faith and a part of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Albuquerque, I believe the integrity of the earth must be preserved for the Common Good of all people and creatures with whom we share this planet. The Commission has no doubt already heard many public comments regarding the urgently concerning links between methane emissions and global climate change. While the proposed methane rule, as it stands, is a step in the right direction, especially in its provision to ban routine venting and flaring (which is very good), it still must be stronger. Oil and gas operators who are out of compliance with gas capture requirements should not be granted permits to drill. There is no time to waste in doing all we can to mitigate, as much as is still possible, the effects of global climate change which will bring such unnecessary suffering and hardship around the globe and to New Mexican communities.

Though New Mexico has often been neglected on the national stage, there has never been a more urgent hour as this one for New Mexico to stand at the crossroads of this moment with bold, moral leadership – especially given that in the months since the state began seeking public input on methane, the [latest methane emissions data](#) from the Permian are the highest ever measured from a U.S. oil and gas basin. **The highest ever measured from a U.S. oil and gas basin.** The choices made by the OCC in this hearing will not only effect New Mexicans, many of whom are already suffering directly from the health effects of methane pollution, but these choices will be ramified in every corner of the globe. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I strongly urge the commission to take every measure possible to ensure that methane pollution regulations are made stronger than they have ever been, and enforced with vigilance.