

**Fesmire, Mark, EMNRD**

**From:** Colleen McCann [c\_m\_mccann@cybermesa.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2007 9:02 PM  
**To:** Fesmire, Mark, EMNRD  
**Subject:** FW: Birth Defects and Pollution regarding oil drilling FW: thank you for not allowing open pit waste pits in Santa Fe County or in NM & enforcing strict env. oil drilling laws

Mark,

Thank you for upholding environmental laws and the health of Santa Fe citizens by not supporting open pit waste pits.

I wrote to you earlier today (see below) and made a public statement at the OCD meeting earlier tonight. I'm going to reiterate what I said earlier this evening about Four Corners and Farmington having 5x more than the nat'l avg of **birth defects** which is accredited to coal, oil, and gas industries. **Below are links articles on pollution and adverse health effects from gas & oil extraction.** I hope this info will help you with needed evidence for closed loop systems.

Ideally, I'd like to see NM use alternative energy sources, rather than, antiquated fossil fuels that are proven pollutants and health hazards to the public.

Thank you,  
 Colleen McCann

<http://www.earthworksaction.org/FracingDetails.cfm#CONTAMINATION>

Calculations performed by EPA show that at least **nine hydraulic fracturing chemicals** may be injected into or close to USDWs at concentrations that **pose a threat to human health. These chemicals may be injected at concentrations that are anywhere from 4 to almost 13,000 times the acceptable concentration in drinking water.** [9]

Not only does the injection of these chemicals pose a short-term threat to drinking water quality, it is quite possible that there could be long-term negative consequences for USDWs from these fracturing fluids. According to the EPA study, and studies conducted by the oil and gas industry, [10] **between 20 and 40% of the fracturing fluids may remain in the formation, which means the fluids could continue to be a source of groundwater contamination for years to come.**

<http://www.scorecard.org/health-effects/>

Using information from scientific sources and regulatory agencies, Scorecard provides listings of the chemicals that can cause cancer, harm the immune system, contribute to birth defects, or lead to any of nine other types of health impacts. Chemicals whose health hazards are widely **recognized by authoritative scientific organizations are separated from chemicals whose health hazards are suspected on the basis of more limited data.**

[http://www.scorecard.org/env-releases/def/water\\_gen.html](http://www.scorecard.org/env-releases/def/water_gen.html)

water quality a national overview

[http://www.sierraclub.org/communities/nm/nm\\_report.pdf](http://www.sierraclub.org/communities/nm/nm_report.pdf)

(See pages 7 & 8 San Juan Basin --- poorly constructed roads, poisoned ranch animals etc)

[http://www.sanjuancitizens.org/otherpages/Newsletters/SJCANews\\_Oct02.pdf](http://www.sanjuancitizens.org/otherpages/Newsletters/SJCANews_Oct02.pdf)

See pg 6 -- excerpts follow....

San Juan pollution, "not" monitored.

Gas fired compressors cause asthma and air pollution (Richard Grossmann a Durango Co physician recommends using solar panels)

Brooks Taylor a retired health physician notes direct detrimental impact on human health

<http://www.aztecnews.com/NewsArchives/1Ap04all.pdf>

See pg 2 - excerpt follow

the issue of deteriorating regional air quality including haze needs to be

addressed. Aztec city commissioners were told that the cost of \$1000 for the addition of a catalytic converter to each wellhead compressor on wells slated for development within Aztec city limits is too high. Catalytic converters or other add-ons are said to significantly reduce emissions of air pollutants like NOx (nitrogen oxides) that is one of the precursors of ozone and a contributor to haze as well as having negative health and environmental impacts of its own.

[http://www.tceblog.com/archives/archive\\_2005\\_05.shtml](http://www.tceblog.com/archives/archive_2005_05.shtml)

...1 of the 10 dirtiest clean-up sites in US due to fuel

...EPA is declaring *a risk to human health and environment right now*.

...levels of trichloroethylene, a cancer-causing solvent, are rising.

<http://sfreporter.com/articles/publish/outtake-110707-drill-bits.php>

The Sierra Legal Defense Fund, a non-profit environmental law firm, documented a host of problems that emerged from Samson's sour-gas drilling in Charlie Lake and neighboring Fort St. John. In 2004, for example, a well leaked near an elementary school in Fort St. John. They evacuated and, from then on, whenever Samson was drilling it hired three buses to remain parked in front of the school, engines running, just in case.

**From:** Colleen McCann [mailto:c\_m\_mccann@cybermesa.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2007 7:24 AM

**To:** 'mark.fesmire@state.nm.us'

**Cc:** Colleen

**Subject:** thank you for not allowing open pit waste pits in Santa Fe County or in NM & enforcing strict env. oil drilling laws

Dear Mark,

I just wanted to thank you for not supporting open waste pits in Santa Fe County & enforcing strict environmental oil drilling laws.

I'd like to see this decision extended to all of NM. And, ideally, I'd like to see green alternative energy sources and businesses, not oil business, promoted in Santa Fe.

Furthermore, in regard to oil co's arguments saying that by not drilling it would hurt school systems.

I believe this is a fallacy. The **October Sun** wrote an article called "**Trouble in the Tax Assessor's Office**" p 20. It discusses how **property taxes have not been re-evaluated by the County Assessors Office in "years."**

Many people (myself included) are paying much higher taxes than neighbors who bought property years ago because the county has not re-accessed properties since the original date it was bought! **Teacher's salaries "normally" originate from property taxes in other states.** I'd rather have my property taxes raised to give teachers decent salaries than to support oil drilling efforts that are detrimental to Santa Fe County as a whole!

Keep up the good work!

Thank you,  
Colleen McCann

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