

From: [Susan Peirce](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the application to prohibit PFAS and require disclosure of chemicals used in oil and gas operations
Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 11:11:14 AM

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Dear Ms. Sheila Apodaca,

Please share my below public comment regarding Case No. 23580 with the Oil Conservation Commissioners:

I support a prohibition on PFAS and PFOA in oil and gas operations and a requirement to disclose chemicals used in downhole operations because:

1. Scientists have documented probable links between PFAS and kidney cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, pre-eclampsia and ulcerative colitis. PFAS and PFOA do not break down and are known to accumulate in land, water and in our bodies, leading to their nickname "forever chemicals." There is no level of exposure to these contaminants that is safe.
2. In a study published in August 2024 in the Lancet, researchers from the American Cancer Society reported that cancer rates for 17 of the 34 most common cancers are increasing in progressively younger generations. The study notes that these increasing rates "largely reflect increased exposure to carcinogenic factors during early life or young adulthood compared with previous generations." Exposure to toxic chemicals like PFAS is a serious public health risk and oil and gas regulations must prevent drilling operations from contaminating our land and water.
3. In a 2016 report on fracking and drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that fracking related pollution from chemicals used in oil and gas operations could follow a number of pathways to impact surface and groundwater, including injection or spilling of fluids into groundwater or cracked casements that could allow fluids to migrate to aquifers. Since OCC cannot provide 100% certainty that contamination of drinking water will not occur, it must prohibit PFAS in Oil and Gas operations.
4. Between 2013 and 2022 oil and gas companies injected more than 3,600 NM wells with surfactants, a class of chemical that include multiple PFAS. But the details remain a trade secret. Without disclosure requirements there is no way for regulators to verify or enforce a prohibition on PFAS in oil and gas operations. Industry complaints that such disclosure requirements will expose trade secrets are unfounded. Like rules requiring chemical disclosure in California and Colorado, the individual constituents of fracking fluids can be disclosed without listing trade names.

Most importantly, the Oil Conservation Commission should ensure that the rules governing oil and gas drilling prevent contamination of New Mexico water with PFAS and any other harmful chemicals that can accumulate in soil and water and harm public health.

Sincerely,
Susan Peirce
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