

Oil/Gas companies act and carry on business as if they are above the laws by which the rest of us have to, and do, abide!!

Oil/Gas companies have taken the position that they have the right to trespass, litter, dump trash and debris, pollute all of the environment, put in mini land fills, and waste disposal sites, and many other "adverse to the environment" activities. Those of us who own the surface are subject to regulations. Our concern for the environment would not allow us to bring havoc as do the Oil/Gas companies; and, of course, if we did so we would be penalized. Does this disparity make sense?

Oil/Gas companies have the right to abuse all other resource users and the general population to produce their revenue stream. They do this unhindered, without penalty; and yet all other resource users and the general population are held to another set of rules and regulations. We are not allowed to interfere in anyway with oil/gas companies' activities without severe restrictions and penalties. Does this make sense?

The dominance of mineral rights over all other rights is predicated from Spanish Law up to today. The Spaniards did not come here looking for grazing and timber or water resources; they came looking for gold and silver; and all laws in the US since that time have been in favor of the minerals. But times have changed!! We now have close to 300,000,000 people in the US. Our natural resources—water, soil, and atmosphere—are being taxed substantially even without the unrestricted pollution caused by the Oil/Gas industry.

So that further harm is minimized, we need to address those situations that we know are causing harm and that can be corrected by positive actions. This could be accomplished by enforcing those rules and regulations that are already in place onto the Oil/Gas industry. It can be accomplished legislatively as well.

Many, many hours have been spent on these pit rule hearings, the SUA bill, surface waste management hearings, and so on; and where are we? Still having meetings! These important issues must be resolved.

I think it is time for the Oil/Gas industry to face the truth, come to the table, and make something happen that would be for the good of our environment and for the good of the people; rather than put out misstatements, misrepresentations, and other obstacles that continue to impede the process.

A CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM should be required and implemented statewide, get the pit discussions out of the way, and then move on to the next problem.

*Submitted by,
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