



Hobbs Municipal Schools

Central Office

1515 East Sanger

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Hobbs, New Mexico 88241

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February 13, 2007

Hobbs High School
433-0200

Alternative Learning Center
433-0226

Freshman High School
433-1100

Highland Jr. High
433-1200

Houston Jr. High
433-1300

Broadmoor Elementary
433-1500

College Lane Elementary
433-2800

Coronado Elementary
433-2300

Edison Elementary
433-1600

Jefferson Elementary
433-1700

Mills Elementary
433-2400

Sanger Elementary
433-1800

Southern Heights Elementary
433-1800

Stone Elementary
433-2500

Taylor Elementary
433-2000

B. T. Washington Elementary
433-2100

Will Rogers Elementary
433-2200

Nutritional Services
433-0220

Federal Programs
433-0400

Dalton Tabor Office Complex
433-0600

Jenkins-Nunan Center
433-0025

Warehouse/Maintenance
433-1728

Mark Fesmire
Department of Energy Minerals and Natural Resources
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Application of Quest Resources, Case No. 13,870
Section 9, T-18-D, R-38-E, Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Fesmire:

On behalf of the Hobbs Municipal School District please consider the following concerns and points regarding the location for the proposed well. While the district appreciates the contributions of the oil and gas industry to state educational financing, it is also important that development of those resources be reasonable for the protection of the community and the environment.

The Hobbs Schools have College Lane Elementary School located approximately one thousand feet from the proposed well location. As administrators of the school system it is incumbent upon us to protect the interests of our students.

The most pressing concern is the risk of blowout. As you know there have been several blowouts over the last decade in Eddy and Lea Counties. These blowouts required area evacuations and displaced people from those homes and businesses near the wells. Given the proximity of our elementary school to the proposed well, the effects of a blowout would severely impact our students and operations. The risk of harm includes exposure to harmful and deadly substances such as the hydrogen sulfide gas release in Denver City, Texas, a couple of decades ago which resulted in several deaths. Even something short of a worst case scenario could result in an evacuation of the elementary school which could disrupt our ability to operate the school. This district is at capacity and it would be impossible to accommodate the College Lane students without major disruption for our other schools.

Separate from these concerns, the application does not address any measures which would protect our students from the attractive nuisance created by applicants facilities. Noise, fumes and increased traffic, also are concerns which at some level or another impact the safety and educational experience of our students.

My apologies for being unable to attend this hearing, however obligations here require my presence. I trust the OCD will protect the interest of the district and other affected parties. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cliff Burch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cliff Burch
Superintendent
Hobbs Municipal Schools

cc Michael Newell esq.
file