

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to ensure the new oil and gas pit regulations will prohibit the oil and gas industry from scattering toxic pit waste across New Mexico in the form of unmonitored and permanent, waste dumps.

The oil and gas industry wants the new "pit rule" to allow on-site, in-place burial of drilling waste that is generated each time an oil or gas well is drilled in New Mexico. Oil and gas pits contain a range of toxic, carcinogenic and hazardous materials, and burying, unmonitored toxic pit waste threatens our precious groundwater, the people who live in proximity to these dumps, and our private and state lands.

It is time to clean up New Mexico by requiring closed loop systems near our water and homes, banning unlined pits, and even further, putting an end to onsite burial of oil and gas waste.

Industry can afford to utilize best technologies such as closed loop systems, and they can afford to haul dirty pit waste to approved facilities. Please require closed loop systems and prohibit any permanent and unmonitored burial of pit waste -- it's the simple solution.

Sincerely,

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