

12/7/2007

Mrs. Janet Rees  
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Dear Governor Richardson,

I am writing to express my appreciation for Mark Fesmire's drive to develop a new pit rule to correct oil and gas industry's negative pit impacts in our state. I appreciate Joanna Prukop's efforts in defense of this effort, most recently before legislators. I appreciate having access to the pit contents data via OCD's website that was developed from samples collected from numerous pits in the northwestern and southwestern parts of the state and from sites operated by a variety of producers including some of the biggest in the state.

I am a New Mexico citizen and wildlife advocate who has been concerned for several years about the existing and potential negative impacts of oil and gas industry pits in New Mexico, especially in the northwestern corner of the state where I live. This is where I see the stuff in the pits, where I see the torn pit liners, where industry is on record for illegally closing pits, where I know livestock have either aborted or died because of ingesting pit contents, where I have no doubt in my mind that wildlife have also drunk pit contents and have certainly suffered some of the same negative consequences as livestock. I am very concerned about toxic and cancer causing agents from pits leaching into New Mexico's water, not just in areas where there are people, but also in areas where there are springs and aquifers.

As for industry's arguments of cost" they whine about anything that will cost rather than stepping up to the plate to accept their responsibilities. For example, a few years ago when industry successfully came before the city of Aztec and weakened the city's oil and gas regs, an industry representative from the biggest producer in the basin told the commissioners that a catalytic converter at \$1000 per wellhead compressor would be too costly. As for their argument that they will move somewhere with a friendlier industry climate, I ask where are they going to go that hasn't already been leased. Furthermore, I don't think they are going to leave the current and very profitable cash cow they have in New Mexico. While I realize this industry's contribution to New Mexico's tax revenues, I also realize that this industry has made

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billions of dollars in New Mexico, some of which does not stay in New Mexico and some of which, I think, does not even stay in the U.S.

I thank the above two people and unnamed others who have undoubtedly been involved in researching closed loop systems and preparing the rule to deal in a better way with pit waste. I am grateful for an Oil Conservation Division that is not controlled by industry as I believe it was prior to Mark Fesmire's coming on board.

Sincerely,  
Janet Rees

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