

Lawrence I. Kelley
Middle Mesa Area
329 Rd. 4020
Ignacio, Co.
81137

To The State of New Mexico
Subj. The law that says the state has the right to decide where a
gas well is to be drilled on private property.

As a land owner & tax payer in our beautiful state, I feel that
this is a law that should be repealed. It is very unfair to the land
owner in that most of us selected our homesites for privacy & views.

I am a firm believer that only my wife or I should have the final
say as to where a well could be drilled on our property. In my humble
opinion, this is a violation of my Constitutional rights which I helped to
defend during WWII, Korea & Viet Nam.

While we have a Co. mailing address, we live in remote area of
North West NM & are registered voters in San Juan County.

I respectfully request that you can see your way to repeal this law
& give us land owners some say as to what happens to our property.

Sincerely yours
Lawrence I. Kelley
Lawrence I. Kelley

Ref: Allison Well #39 , Allison Unit , Middle Mesa , New Mexico

New Mexico State Mineral Div.
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Aug. 20, 1998

Dear Sirs,

I Understand that the site of Allison Unit # 39 is in a Non-Standard Locale and has been Denied Acceptance for a Drilling Permit in it's Present Staked location.

This well has been moved three times during it's inception. The first two locations would have block the natural Water sheds which are the life line for our livestock. The importance of the drainage's to provide water for our livestock is crucial for our Cattle Ranch Operations. The window of the initial locations would also mean the loss of cleared pasture and fields for which we rely heavily upon for our feed during the winter months. As I'm sure of your awareness that the area in question is located in the dry land region of the state. We have been clearing land and replanting as much possible so we can support our Cattle Ranch. And Frankly it would be of great inconvenience to lose ground that we have in current use. It would also require the removal of some trees which are in a natural wind block arrangement that protects the nearby reservoirs. The reservoirs in reference would be then located within 50' of the location and would thus become endangered if there is a spill during the life of the Well Site. To date we have already experienced a few spills on the other 6 present wells on our property which includes (diesel spillage, hydraulic oil spill, Foam from an Work Over , Salt water over run and also a Ruptured casing aprox. 30' below the wellhead.) The location would have to be sprayed for weeds periodically and there is use of glycol on certain wells any of these contaminates would put our livestock in jeopardy and with the well site being so close to the water supply the chances of prevention would be minimal to stop the spreading of the spill before the water would become tainted. In short we would much prefer the location to be left at its present site to avoid the loss of useable land and the possible hazard which would be present to our present water supplies.

With the current intended Drilling program the well count on our ranch will reach 10 wells with each well comprising aprox. 2 to 3 acres each, we will lose the use of 20 to 30 acres of our useable land which if all this was to be in one of our alfalfa fields well I wouldn't have much of a crop. I know the State of New Mexico Believes in the Mineral Production coming in over and above the landowners rights however in this instance the loss of useable land becomes the issue in this certain case.

So at the conclusion of this letter I would also like to mention we have worked very closely with the oil and gas operators and have for the most part have been able to comply with all the previous requests. I also have worked in the Oil and Gas industry for 23 yrs. and with these wells being drilling down to the Mesa Verde at the present location I believe the formation not to be fractured due to the geology of the land and should still be able to flow unimpeded to the site of the chosen location. I would appreciate consideration for the above arguments presented in this letter.

Thomas F. Lee

9/12/98

To the New Mexico Oil and Gas
Commission

Santa Fe New Mexico.

I am writing in concern of a well # 39 Allison Unit that is to be placed on our land. This well will make 9 wells on our beautiful land of 540 acres.

My husband, kids and I have worked very hard to make our place one of beauty. We have lots of Elk, deer, and many other wild life inhabitants that enjoy our place. We looked and looked for a place to put our home that didn't have to much of a presents of a well. We settled for where we now have our home and now you are wanting to put a location right in our views, were the runoff goes into our ~~reservoir~~ pond which has been hear for well over 30 years and is our prime source of water for our cattle and you are taking away more of our privacy which we like having.

I also understand that where we have chosen to have the well you are still getting the same gas. So I do not understand why you turned this down when you will still be getting the same revenue as in the other place and you get your money which is what this is all about I believe and we still get some of our

places. If you continue to scare our land at the present rate you and the Gas Co. are doing there will be no New Mexico for anyone to enjoy and then when the gas is gone what will you do then, or do you really even care.

Also what about horizontal drilling. I know the gas Co. say it's too expensive but I would think in the long run everyone would benefit and the land would not be so abused. Something to think about.

Why does the B.L.M., Forest Service, and the State get to still choose to have a well put on them or not and were to put it. If this law applies to everyone which I am sure it does why is the land owner the only ones that are being denied the choose this only will make it harder for the gas Co. to deal with us.

Sincerely
Deonie Lee

9/12/98

To Whom It May Concern,

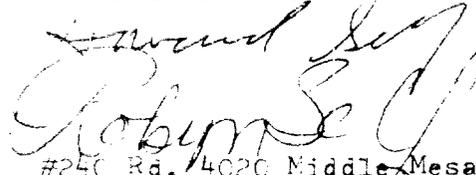
I am writing this letter to address some issues that have recently come to the attention of my wife and I. Our prime concern is that the landowner does not have the right to say where a gas location is placed on his/her own land. It is my understanding that present laws allow drilling on cultural resource areas, that have no grave, if the landowner consents. It is also my understanding that well locations can be within sixty (60) feet of a residence or building. It is our belief that the only restrictions gas companies have when drilling a well location are: drilling too close in proximity to an existing well, a grave of cultural antiquity, an obvious physical barrier and if the intended well site were to consume the vast majority of the landowner's property.

Although we all understand the need for gas and oil, we must also perceive the needs of our state in the future, for the next generation. Even though our state is benefiting greatly from the revenues collected from the gas and oil industries now, the gas companies should not be allowed to operate unchecked, with only the State of New Mexico government watching them. Without the involvement of the concerned landowners, the state is liable to be left with unusable, unmarketable, polluted land from which to draw taxes from.

I have worked in the oil fields of San Juan county for 18 years and only twice have I seen a representative from the State Oil and Gas Commission out in the field and neither time involved the planning or the plotting of a well location. It appears to us that the absence of the State O.C.D. places the well-being of our land into the hands of the gas companies and their contractors. It is the extraction of the gas or oil that is these parties main concern and not the well-being of our private lands. Also, it appears to us that the Bureau of Land Management and the State lands agencies are reluctant to have gas or oil locations placed on their lands. So to leave out the input of the private landowner and to ignore the people who know and love this land the most is a great injustice. We believe that the landowners should have some say in where a well site is located on their own property. If not, maybe the gas and oil companies and the State O.C.D. should take on all future responsibilities and expenses of our state.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Self



Howard Self
Robyn Self

#240 Rd. 4020 Middle Mesa Area New Mexico
Ignacio, Colo. 81137

9-13-1998

To New Mexico Oil and Gas Commission
Santa Fe New Mexico

I am writing this letter concerning the hearing you are having this month with Burlington Oil and Gas Co. of Farmington N.M. This is over owners of private land having say over where a well location can be staked on there private property .

My wife and I have 500 acres of land here on Middle Mesa N.M. and have lived here for 40 years . The gas companies have operated here for most of that time and have worked with us on most of our concerns .

I retired from the U.S. Forest Service 12 years ago and we run a few head of cows . Both of us like our quite solitude area . And we really do not look forward to having more wells put on our property . I understand that the Forest Service and State of N.M. have say over there land as to where a well can be located .

We are not asking that a well be located on some one else's property so we can save our land from being messed up . We are asking that we have the say in a reasonable area where that well is located . The land owner knows his water drainage pattern , the lay of the land , where the elk travel , and definitely does not want it in his view . If this is not possible then most land owners understand give and take . We do not want this give and take that we have with gas companies taken away .

The land owner has few rights left. Only one that comes to mind is paying taxes but there must be more than that . So we ask to keep this power to discuss , negotiate , and agree to the location of any thing that may be placed on our private property . Thank You .

Sincerely
LeRoy & Gisela Self
#238 RD. #4020
Ignacio Co.
(Middle Mesa N.M.)

LeRoy Self
Gisela Self