

Secretary Sally Jewell  
U.S. Department of Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Re: Draft rule for hydraulic fracturing on public lands

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I write today to provide public comment on the Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) draft rule for hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") on public lands. I am deeply concerned about the draft of the proposed rule, which is significantly weaker than the previous draft.

While it is a positive step that the BLM is pursuing a rule for fracking on our public lands, the agency should adopt a moratorium on new oil and gas leases and applications to drill because the impacts of fracking are not yet understood. As the manager of the federal oil and gas program, the DOI needs to take every available action to assess and fully understand the implications from fracking on public health and the environment.

Fracking poses risks to our water supply, food supply, public health and the environment. With regard to the current rulemaking, the BLM needs to take steps to protect people and the environment from this dangerous practice. Specifically, the rule for hydraulic fracturing should require:

- complete public disclosure of fracking fluid chemicals with no exemptions for "trade secrets;"
- that cancer causing and other harmful chemicals be banned from use in fracking fluids;
- that fracking fluid disclosure take place on a government operated database, which allows for cumulative analysis and review of fracking chemicals, instead of on a well by well basis;
- that fracking fluid disclosure take place 30 days prior to when operations begin, with a final list of fracking fluid constituents actually used submitted after fracking is complete;
- mechanical integrity testing of every well, instead of every "type" of well, in order to ensure protections for ground water supplies;
- baseline surface water, ground water, and air quality testing in order to establish current conditions before fracking operations begin;
- protective setbacks from homes, schools, and other highly used and public places in order to protect public health;
- closed-loop "green completions" so that open waste water pits are no longer used; and
- emissions control devices to minimize the amount of methane and other harmful chemicals that escape into the atmosphere;

Reports that the government is meeting frequently with the regulated industry in order to develop the fracking rule are deeply troubling. Do not let the industry write these rules for themselves. Please do not give another government handout to the oil and gas industry and enact a strong rule that successfully protects public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

*Name*

*Address*

*City, ST Zip*