

From: [s. brock](#)
To: [Kourtney Romine](#)
Subject: Objection - Spacing application CC-2020-OGR-01-001
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:15:08 PM
Attachments: [SB letter to IDL re SROG spacing unit 001 6-09-20.doc](#)

From: Shelley Brock
To: kromine@idl.idaho.gov
Subject: RE CC-2020-OGR-01-001
Date: Monday, June 08, 2020

Attn: Mick Thomas

I hereby request that you deny Spacing application CC-2020-OGR-01-001 for reasons that follow:

Because of this application, Payette County residents find themselves on the precipice of yet another battle for their property rights, civil rights, property values, the health and safety of their families, their air quality and the preservation of their precious, irreplaceable water. If this application is approved the next steps will be integration (forced pooling) and production of the already-drilled Fallon 1-10 well that will siphon oil and gas these folks own out from under their homes, against their objections.

Yet this is really a battle for **all** Idaho citizens. We all know that whatever the oil industry is allowed the freedom to do here in Payette County – including this spacing unit - they can and likely will perpetuate across the entire Treasure Valley and Snake River Basin where hundreds of thousands of acres have been leased for future exploration and drilling. We all know that any damages they incur - so typical of these heavy industrial operations - will be laid at the feet of **all** Idaho taxpayers to compensate for absurdly low bonding and insurance levels set by our legislature on the whims of the industry. As Representative Judy Boyle stated during her testimony to the 2017 Legislature “...we allowed Alta Mesa to write the rules and laws to the detriment of my constituents and the endowment”.

Now Alta Mesa and their many affiliates have gone bankrupt (as did Bridge Energy before them), after littering the states they've operated in with lawsuits ranging from fracking contamination to ripping off shareholders and property owners. Here in Idaho, property owners who joined a class action lawsuit against the Alta Mesa 'group' for allegedly stealing their royalties are now left empty handed after the company went under. Those people thought they were safe entering into contracts with this company and this industry. Unlike many of the folks who have submitted letters to your office, they were willing to accept the potential risks for the riches they were promised. After years of futility, begging state regulators and the courts to enforce violations of withholding and reporting laws on the royalties they were entitled to, they have been left bitter, disillusioned and drained of resources.

Now Idahoans are being forced into contracts with yet another Alta Mesa partner, Snake River Oil and Gas, who's CEO Richard Brown, was reportedly responsible for

bringing Alta Mesa to Idaho in the first place. It bears mentioning that the Fallon well sits on property owned by a California corporation which will not have to face the negative impacts of living next to it or the accompanying infrastructure.

Well the people of Idaho have had enough. We are weary of having to fight for our Constitutional rights as Americans against the very state regulators we pay to protect those rights for us. Idahoans are fiercely independent and we don't like the government – or industries that government represents – telling us what to do with the property we own and forcing us to risk our property and the safety of our families for a literal pittance.

After 10 years of drilling it seems pretty obvious that Idaho's oil and gas reserves are insufficient to cover the costs to taxpayers and homeowners for this industry to play here. Over the past decade the cost to taxpayers to regulate this industry hasn't come close to what we have received in severance taxes. And what has that regulation done for us? Operators have been allowed to drill hydrocarbon wells and construct equally dangerous infrastructure in residential areas and on the banks of the iconic Payette River. Who will pay for attempted remediation if the water supply for the Fruitland community and the water that farmers, ranchers, sportsmen and recreationists rely on is contaminated by these wells and the pipelines that were constructed under the river? Idaho taxpayers will. When asked by citizens how they should address questions and problems that arise in dealing with operators your response has been that they can hire an attorney. Why should citizens have to raise substantial money to do your job for you? It cost us \$100,000 to take state regulators to court and successfully prove to a federal Judge that our Constitutional rights had been violated. How many individual citizens could do that? And what right do you have to even suggest that?

I am reminded of another energy industry proposal some years back involving Payette county officials and shareholders who fell for a proposal to build a nuclear reactor. Promises of high paying jobs, money for the county and untold riches for shareholders turned out to be embarrassingly too-good-to-be-true. This history raises the question:

Why do we keep falling for these get-rich-quick schemes involving polluting industries that exploit the trust and resources of our citizens and officials, when the real value of our Idaho lifestyle lies in our rich soil and pristine water, clean air and strong defense of our Constitutional freedoms as Americans to protect and preserve all those things?

Please deny this application and STOP catering to an industry that is more concerned with maximizing the short term profits of out of state companies than with the long term costs to Idaho families.

Respectfully,
Shelley Brock
President, Board of Directors – CAIA
Citizens Allied for Integrity and Accountability
(208) 559-6127

<https://integrityandaccountability.org/>

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