

DEPT. OF LANDS

JAN 23 2020

BOISE, IDAHO

William G. Tolbert
Roxie Tolbert
1210 Cottonwood Drive
Fruitland, ID 83619

January 20, 2020

Idaho Department of Lands
Attn: Mick Thomas
300 N. 6th Street, Suite 103
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

RE: Alta Mesa Gas/Oil Well, Fruitland, ID. IOGCC Docket No. CC-2019-OGR-01-002

Mr. Thomas,

Just a reminder, from your own website:

We also manage for the public's benefit Idaho's public trust lands, the lands beneath Idaho's navigable waterways including riverbeds and the beds and banks of Idaho's navigable lakes.

Mission

To professionally and prudently manage Idaho's endowment assets to maximize long-term financial returns to public schools and other trust beneficiaries and to provide professional assistance to the citizens of Idaho to use, protect and sustain their natural resources.

The Idaho Department of Lands believes in...

- STEWARDSHIP by making decisions and taking actions that positively affect long-term financial returns for the trust beneficiaries and enhance the health and resilience of Idaho's natural resources.

We moved into our home in Northview Ranch in August, 2019 and were very upset to find out, at the end of December, from our neighbors, that drilling for gas/oil is planned for our neighborhood and we knew nothing about it. This house was bought in good faith as our retirement home and we were provided no information regarding this issue at the time of purchase nor have we received any information since. We understand that this is the case with most of the residents on our street, Cottonwood Drive.

It appears that there is once again a name change with some new investors who are attempting to take over our mineral rights so that they can drill for gas/oil. According to the news article in the Idaho Statesman, the new investors took a 55% interest

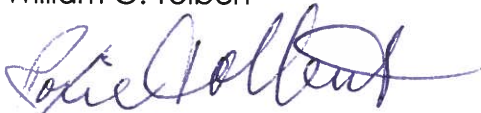
which leaves 45% with the same people who, according to the article, "has been troubled for the past six years over royalty payments, environmental concerns and disputes with its neighbors" after they took over in 2018 when the prior company went bankrupt. We would be extremely naive to believe that this constitutes a change in the way they do business. Part of your job is to protect our resources and doing business with a company with this kind of history shows a disregard for, among other things, our water table, our rivers, our air quality, and our wildlife. Is it really a good idea to drill so close to the water treatment plant? There is also the risk to the lives of the people who live here. There is always a risk of a leak.

You are putting at risk the property values of the people who live in the affected areas. At this point, we own our mineral rights but are informed that, if the gas/oil company gets enough people to sign over their mineral rights, ours can be taken from us involuntarily. If they succeed, just the fact that there is drilling involving our area automatically and immediately lowers our property value. People do not want to buy into an area with inherent health and property risks already built in. Should you allow our water to be contaminated, our properties will be of no value at all. Experience tells us that, should something happen and the gas/oil company be held accountable, they will most likely not have to pay anything (will file bankruptcy) or will not give the homeowners anywhere close to what they would need to move and buy a new house. Our insurance will not pay for any damage to our property caused by the drilling. If there is damage, it can never be made like it was before and given the history of these people, we sure don't trust them to even pay for part of trying to correct things.

We have not, nor will we ever willingly sell or lease our mineral rights or sign gas leases. We hope that you can see past the dollar signs (and given their history, we wouldn't trust those). We beg you to do your job and protect our beautiful little corner of Idaho and the people who live here and love it.

Vote NO on drilling in our area, now and in the future.


William G. Tolbert


Roxie Tolbert