

From: Chris Wrather [<mailto:chris.wrather@cottonwoodhorse.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 8:09 AM
To: Allen, Michael (COB)
Cc: Farr, Doreen; Henson, Chris
Subject: June 7 meeting, Agenda Item #2: Hearing on hydraulic fracturing

Clerk of the Board, would you please transmit the following comments to the Supervisors? Thanks, Chris Wrather

Chair Gray and Members of the Board of Supervisors, I will be unable to give public comment in person on this issue. It is a very important issue to me and to many in our community, so I am putting my thoughts in writing.

The uncertainties about the safety of hydraulic fracturing have caused serious worry for our Los Alamos Valley community. Townspeople, ranchers and farmers alike have spoken to me about their fear that this controversial completion technique might irreparably damage the quality of our water.

I understand that this agenda item will likely be continued to August when the DOGGR diector will attend. I am concerned that irreversible actions which might be harmful to the San Antonio basin might be taken in the interim period between now and the August meeting, and therefore I make the following requests and recommendations.

Page 5 of the Board Letter states in regard to drilling permits:

"Staff recently augmented the application process by requiring applicants to complete a supplemental application to ensure that sufficient information is provided in all future oil and gas related permit applications to address secondary and tertiary recovery methods, including hydraulic fracturing..."

I ask and recommend that the Board require a full environmental review before any permit is granted that includes hydraulic fracturing as a completion technique. The environmental review should include evaluation of the impact of fracking on groundwater quality and seismic stability, The environmental review should require approval of the Planning Commissison so that the public has a chance to question the scope, adequacy and accuracy of the review prior to a permit being granted.

In a meeting of invited landowners on May 31, Veneco, the operator of the two existing fractured wells, stated that they have been granted permits to drill two additional wells in the general vicinity of their existing fractured wells, and that they intend to drill these wells in the near future. The implication was that fracking would be used in completing these wells. I ask and recommend that the Board ensure that these two new wells are subject to the supplemental application referred to above, and that they be subjected to full environmental review with an opportunity for public comment (as described in the previous paragraph), prior to any drilling.