

MEMO

TO: Honorable Nations of the All Indian Pueblo Council of Governors, Navajo Nation, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Pueblo of Zuni, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Ft. Sill Apache Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Havasupai Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Southern Ute Indian Tribe

FROM: American Indian Movement – Albuquerque, NM

DATE: June 13, 2017

SUBJECT: Chaco Canyon and Rio Grande Valley Oil and Gas Expansion

We are deeply concerned over the expansion of oil and gas development, including fracking, in the Chaco Canyon, Rio Grande Valley and other areas. The geographic area affected is estimated at 186,000 acres. This expansion will have a profound effect on American Indian Tribal Nation's water, air, health and safety of the tribal region, beginning with:

- the South East Region of Sandoval County a 100,000 acres under county jurisdiction of private property land holdings
- 55,000 acres of BLM and State lands within Sandoval County and
- 32,000 acres of mineral leases on Zia Pueblo
- an expected potential of 15,000 to 30,000 oil and gas wells will be developed-- nearly the same number as in the Permian Basin which has been touted by Thrust Energy as a financial boon to the county coffers.

Crucial to this issue -- the mandated Federal Consultation Process (FCP) under Presidential Executive Order (PEO) 13175 to protect tribal lands, resources and interests has not been followed between United States Government (USG) and American Indian Tribal Nations. We are gravely troubled that this FCP with the affected American Indian Tribal Nations, located within traditional tribal homelands, is nonexistent.

The USG's FCP with tribes concerns impacts on tribal lands, water, ground water, water aquifers, air, health, safety and cultural resources. Proposed and ongoing developments in the Rio Grande region, lands adjacent to Chaco Canyon and surrounding areas will affect 800,000 people.

Local counties have or are considering ordinances that are wholly inadequate to regulate these developments that would adversely affect tribal interests. Federal tribal consultations are critical to ensure that these county proposals and actions do not violate the tribal interests.

The American Indian Movement – Albuquerque, New Mexico (AIM – ABQ) supports a five year moratorium to enable a completed Environmental Impact Statement which will include tribal lands, water, ground water, water aquifers, air, health, safety and cultural resources. We are requesting a FCP with affected tribes be initiated immediately with Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of the Federal Trustee, Environmental Protection Agency and New Mexico Public Regulation Commission as required by the Federal Consultation Process.

We stand ready to support you in this effort.

Cc: see attached page

Cc:

Vice President Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation

Navajo Nation Tri Chapter Alliance

Navajo Nation Chapters

NM Senator Tom Udall

NM Senator Martin Heinrich

NM Representative Michele Lujan Grisham

NM Representative Stevan Pierce

NM Representative Ben Lujan

NM Public Regulation Commission

NM Indian Affairs Department

NM Bureau of Land Management

NM Stop Fracking the Rio Grande Valley

NM Common Cause

US Bureau of Indian Affairs

US Office of the Federal Trustee

US Environment Protection Agency

