

April 16, 2012

William H. Stallings
Chief, Transportation, Energy and Agriculture Section
Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice
50 Fifth Street, N.W., Suite 8000
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Civil Action No. 12-cv-00395-RPM-MEH

Dear Mr. Stallings:

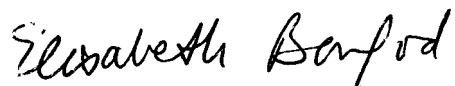
As a former resident of the state of Colorado who has hiked the beautiful North Fork Valley, I have become alarmed about the above case under review by the Department of Justice, which will result in a potentially flawed sale by the Bureau of Land Management of natural gas leases east of the Paonia Reservoir. It is my understanding that the Gunnison Energy Corp and SG Interests colluded in 2004 and 2005 to avoid competitive bidding for these leases and that this has been under investigation as a civil case. In my opinion, this misses the major point, since the apparent collusion and proposed sale violates federal antitrust law.

I now live in the state of Vermont, where environmental issues receive top priority. If the civil settlement goes through as planned, the gas leases will end up in the hands of companies that do not necessarily have a pristine reputation of stewards of the land. What do we know about the impact of drilling activities on the future development of man-made faults and what do we know about how these activities will influence the health of the Ragged Mountain basin and the regions beyond? A reconsideration of the civil settlement would provide an opportunity to bring these concerns to light.

For these reasons, I request that you decline the proposed civil settlement and instead review this case as a potential violation of federal antitrust law. I look forward to seeing justice served. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

802-864-4985



Elisabeth Barford
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