To: Harper, Jim[Harper.Jim@epa.gov]
From: Dermer, Michele
Sent: Tue 3/22/2016 5:31:39 PM
Subject: FW: Please save my drinking water; deny the Aquifer Exemption for the Arroyo Grande Oil Field

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 11:04 PM
To: Albright, David <Albright.David@epa.gov>; Dermer, Michele <Dermer.Michele@epa.gov>; Robin, George <Robin.George@epa.gov>
Cc: Kobelski, Bruce <Kobelski.Bruce@epa.gov>
Subject: Please save my drinking water; deny the Aquifer Exemption for the Arroyo Grande Oil Field

Dear Mr. Albright,

My name is Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy My family and I live approximately one mile from the Arroyo Grande Oil Field. The company running the oil field Freeport McMoRan, is requesting exemption from the Safe Drinking Water Act in order to dump their wastewater into the underground aquifer(s) on their property.

The problem I see with this is that the surrounding residential homes, hundreds of them, are all procuring their drinking water from underground aquifers.

Dumping wastewater into underground aquifers that people drink from, or are very close to drinking from, is dangerous.

I never had a problem with the Arroyo Grande Oil Field. It has operated on Price Canyon Road for nearly a century. But, the operations are long from the early days when they dug a shovel into the ground to extract the oil. Now the oil company needs to use enhanced oil recovery to extract the hard-to-reach oil. They are injecting steam hundreds of feet down into the ground to pull out oil.

This is a problem because they are wasting a lot of water - 20 barrels to be exact, to pull out just one barrel of oil. Then, they have to figure out a way to dispose of all the 20 barrels of produced brine water that they pull out with the oil. They treat some of it, but then they are left with an even more concentrated wastewater after it passes through the filtration system.

Where are they going to dispose of the wastewater? Back into the aquifer. This highly-concentrate brine water is not safe to drink.

We are in a drought and we need all the water we have in this county. We can't be wasting it to extract a measly amount of tar sand. And we can't be risking polluting the good aquifers around the exempted one.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Save our aquifer and deny this exemption.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Beller