



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **EXPERT PANEL ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON OIL AND GAS DRILLING**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico*—A panel of experts will give a presentation on the legal, economic and social issues and the health impact of oil and gas drilling in Santa Fe County Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Universalist Church, 107 West Barcelona Road, Santa Fe.

Four nationally recognized experts will present the facts on how landowners and residents have been impacted by environmental toxics associated with the oil and gas development activities in their area.

Dr. Theo Colburn, Lance Astrella, Ben Alexander and Tweeti Blancett will discuss:

- Incidents of asthma, respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, autoimmune diseases, liver failure, cancer and other ailments such as headaches, nausea, and sleeplessness.
- Landowner stories on health effects related to oil and gas development.
- Some of the chemicals being used by industry, and the potential health effects associated with these chemicals.
- Air contaminants that are released throughout the oil and gas development process.

New Mexico Environmental Law Center ([www.nmenvirolaw.org](http://www.nmenvirolaw.org)), Common Ground United ([www.commongroundunited.org](http://www.commongroundunited.org)) and Conservation Voters New Mexico ([www.cvnm.org](http://www.cvnm.org)) have joined to co-sponsor this informative event.

### **WHO**

**Dr. Theo Colburn:** A leading endocrinologist and co-author of [Our Stolen Future](#).

The book is written for the general public and concerns the health and environmental threats created by man-made chemical contaminants. She will discuss the impact these chemicals have on us, sometimes years later, resulting in reduced disease resistance, diminished fertility and compromised intelligence and behavior. Theo Colburn is a Professor of Zoology at the University of Florida, Gainesville, and President of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TDEX), based in Paonia, Colorado.

About [Our Stolen Future](#):

"A chilling account of a fascinating scientific discovery. All who are concerned with preserving the earth and the health of its children and grandchildren will find this book both important and rewarding." Robert Redford

"Its subject is so important and its story so powerful that it deserves to be read by the widest possible audience." New York Times Book Review

“Powerful” Time

**Tweeti Blancett:** Along with her husband Linn, a sixth generation rancher in New Mexico, Tweeti Blancett has seen firsthand what Oil and Gas Drilling can do to the landscape, health, livestock and livelihood of the community. Their battle for industry compliance with regulations is featured in the Sierra Club’s film Range Wars Rage On. Her personal story about her ranch has been widely reported in the national media including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, People Magazine and on the news with Tom Brokaw.

“We graze cattle on 17 square-miles of Bureau of Land Management, state and our private land. We once ran 600 cows on those 35,000 acres. Today, we can barely keep 100 cows.” – December 2007

**Lance Astrella:** Astrella & Price P.C. A lawyer specializing in energy, natural resources and environmental issues on behalf of those who are not involved in the energy industry. His firm has tried numerous cases involving surface use and pollution resulting from oil and gas exploration and production activities, especially in the Rocky Mountain States. He is a frequent speaker on energy related issues.

**Ben Alexander:** Headwaters Economics. Headwaters is an independent nonprofit research group. Their mission is to improve community development and land management decisions in the West “so we make the right choices for our future”.

“We care deeply about this region and are frustrated by the lack of credible information on important topics such as energy development, sprawl, fire, recreation, rural development and the changing economic role of public lands.”

“We fulfill our mission by giving the right people credible information they can use to identify and solve problems. We are very practical in this sense.” – Ben Alexander, New West Magazine

**WHAT:**

Nationally recognized experts present the facts of the effects of oil and gas drilling on people’s health, the environment and the economy. These experts will speak in clear, simple language, targeted to a general audience who want to be more informed.

**WHERE:**

Unitarian Universalist Church, 107 West Barcelona Road, Santa Fe

**WHEN:**

Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**COST:**

Free and open to the public. Seats are limited. E-mail [cantdrinkoil@cybermesa.com](mailto:cantdrinkoil@cybermesa.com)

**INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**