

From: [Dorothy Hawthorne](#)
To: [Kourtney Romine](#)
Subject: May 17, 2016
Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 11:53:02 AM

May 17, 2016

Kourtney Romine
Administrative Ass't. RPA
Idaho Department of Lands
kromine@idl.idaho.gov

Subject: SEISMIC for Rule Making May 18, 2016

I recently had the opportunity to ask several legislators many questions concerning **seismic activity** in gas and oil areas of drilling and fracking. None of them had seen the necessity of testing seismic activity near a ninety three year old dam that sits just above the town of Emmett. The majority of these legislators did not believe gas and oil drilling would affect tectonic plates.

Allow me to explain. The Ridge Fault close to Emmett has been monitored by the Seismic Center in Seattle and for years we have been rated as having the second most tremors in the United States UNTIL recently when gas and oil drilling began in states such as Texas, New Mexico, Wyoming, N. Dakota, Oklahoma and others.

Since drilling began in these states they have surpassed us in earthquakes and tremors. In addition, you need to remember that the Cascadia Fault Line is merely a couple of hundred miles from us. Nearly every mountain in the Cascade chain has erupted and Scientists from the Seattle Seismic Center believe the next eruption will be a 9 or higher on the Richter scale.

In the early 1980s Bruneau, Idaho began 'fresh water shrimp farming' which used **geothermal** water. As drillers became more active in the pursuit of shrimp farming so did the increase of tremors. The tremors were becoming more violent until they actually bent and twisted the drilling casings and landowners began to realize the magnitude of power these drill holes produced and made the decision to end the shrimp farming.

In the early 1960s The **Bureau** of Reclamation gave its full blessing to build a dam just NE of Idaho Falls without much attention paid to geothermal. Idaho Falls sits on the same Fault Line that connects Arco, Bruneau and the Front Fault just SE of Boise that connects to the very Fault Line that affects Gem County. The first morning after the dam was built, President Ford and the Idaho Falls Mayor congratulated each other on their successful venture. At 11:00 AM that same morning the dam burst; killing thousands of cattle and other animals. The alert Sheriff was able to evacuate most of the citizens and only 9 human lives were lost. You can see how vulnerable The Black Canyon 93 year old Dam must be and it sits just above the town of Emmett. For many years, Texas has had a law that all obsolete dams over 50 years of age were to be replaced. That same law should apply in Idaho also!

The above information explains why you need to heed these warnings. It is your

duty to search out all data pertaining to Seismic activity and the affect on dams in our area before allowing any gas and oil drilling.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Hawthorne
2439 Julie Avenue
Emmett, Idaho 83617

Sent from my iPad