

February 10, 2016

Docket number NM-201604-043
Amy Lueders
Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

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2016 FEB 12 PM 2:17
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
SANTA FE, NM 87502

Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale

Dear Ms. Lueders:

I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s planned April 20, 2016 oil and gas lease sale and Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NM-040-2015-61-EA, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3:

I formally protest the inclusion of each of the following parcels, covering a total of 36,841.03 acres in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas:

Kansas	Texas		
NM-201604-001	NM-201604-012	NM-201604-025	NM-201604-039
NM-201604-002	NM-201604-013	NM-201604-026	NM-201604-040
NM-201604-003	NM-201604-014	NM-201604-027	NM-201604-041
NM-201604-004	NM-201604-015	NM-201604-028	NM-201604-042
NM-201604-005	NM-201604-016	NM-201604-029	NM-201604-043
NM-201604-006	NM-201604-017	NM-201604-030	
	NM-201604-018	NM-201604-031	
Oklahoma	NM-201604-019	NM-201604-032	
NM-201604-007	NM-201604-020	NM-201604-033	
NM-201604-008	NM-201604-021	NM-201604-034	
NM-201604-009	NM-201604-022	NM-201604-035	
NM-201604-010	NM-201604-023	NM-201604-036	
NM-201604-011	NM-201604-024	NM-201604-037	

PROTEST

1. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests:

This Protest is filed on behalf of:

Candice Bernd
1018 Denton Street,
Denton, Texas, 76201
214-789-9219

CandiceQuestions@gmail.com

My interest in the lands for sale is that I live and recreate near them. Lake Lewisville is my source for drinking water. The lake serves as the primary drinking water reservoirs for Dallas and much of North Texas. Contamination of Lake Lewisville by toxic, carcinogenic and/or neurotoxic chemicals used in the drilling and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) processes would render Lake Lewisville water undrinkable with considerable negative consequences for the entire North Texas region.

I have felt earthquakes in the North Texas Metroplex. Earthquakes associated with hydraulic fracturing and waste water injection well disposal have been shown by USGS seismologists, as well as seismologists from numerous major universities, to have occurred in Oklahoma, as well as in Irving, Dallas, Azle, Reno, Springtown and other North Texas cities resulting in structural damage to homes, municipal buildings and commercial structures.

Insurance companies will not cover structure damages caused by man-made earthquakes associated with oil and gas production activities.

The Lake Lewisville lease parcels are very close to developed residential communities that would be harmed by the non-stop heavy industrial process starting with pad site preparation and continuing through well completion without benefit to local residents and possible reductions of their real property values.

The lease rates in the bid proposal offer public property at rates far below fair market value and defraud citizens of appropriate revenues from the lease of public property and the sale of publicly-owned minerals.

My city of Denton has some of the worst air quality in the state, and the additional emissions, including methane emissions, released from additional fracturing of these lands will worsen my city's air quality.

I also wish to advocate for increased protections for species and habitats in these lands. The lands that will be affected by the proposed lease sale include habitat for listed, rare and endangered species including the Gunnison's sage-grouse, Greater sage-grouse, humpback chub, Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, bonytail, Mexican spotted owl and California condor.

I use these public lands, including the lands and waters that would be affected by actions under the lease sale, for quiet recreation (including hiking and camping), and spiritual renewal. *Many species, including our own, are threatened by the impacts of global, anthropogenic climate disruption. I am spiritually and politically opposed to all extraction of fossil fuels.*

2. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:

BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below.

1.) Oil and gas exploration and production on or under mortgaged properties violates provisions of federally-insured mortgage loans issued by VHA, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and other federal agencies, and can result in loans being called leading to forced foreclosures for people who receive no benefits from the oil and gas production. Fracking drill paths often extend to ten to twenty miles in length, long enough to protrude under homes.

2.) Fracking threatens endangered species.

- Whooping cranes (*Grus americana*) spent the summer of 2013 directly across from the fracking area on Lewisville Lake.
<http://operationmigration.org/InTheField/2013/08/07/3866/>
- Interior least tern (*S. antillarum athalassos*) frequent Lewisville Lake
- Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) are found on or near proposed lease sites in East Texas.

Sincerely,
Candice Bernd