

Amy Leuders
Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

2016 FEB 19 PM 1:50

February 16, 2016

Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale

Dear Ms. Leuders:

I am filing this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 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 the following parcel, NM- 201603-43, covering a total of 258.9 acres. The proposed parcel is on/adjacent to Lewisville Lake.

I am filing this protest on behalf of myself and my family. My name is Boyd Ausley. I live at 18708 Park Grove Lane, Dallas, Texas 75287 and I can be reached at 972-707-0246. My email is b.ausley@verizon.net.

I am a former resident of Highland Village, Texas and I have many friends living there. We continue to use Lake Lewisville for recreational purposes. Although this does not directly affect me it indirectly does since I am downstream from Lake Lewisville. Lake Lewisville is the primary supply of potable water to Highland Village as well as other communities. Also there are many problems with the Lake Lewisville Dam which has potential to destroy property south of the lake if not corrected by the Corp of Engineers. The potential fracking compounds the negative impact from the lake and the dam. Lake Lewisville must be protected from activities, such as fracking beneath the lake, or there may be dire consequences for thousands of residents who are directly and indirectly involved with the lake.

The reason I feel I am an affected party by the auction of the 10-year mineral lease on the property is due to the following concerns:

1) Highland Village obtains its drinking water supply from Lake Lewisville and public water wells near the lake. I am worried about the contamination of our drinking water through possible drilling runoff from the site. The possible migration of contaminants through our aquifers could also impair our public water wells.

2) I am also concerned about the potential for increased seismicity from added drilling in and around Lake Lewisville. The Lewisville dam is currently under repair after a 161-foot long, 23-foot wide slide on an earthen embankment this past spring. Additional drilling or the migration of drilling fluids along existing fault areas below the lake could negatively impact the integrity of the dam's infrastructure.

The Environmental Assessment for this proposed lease sale is substantially and procedurally flawed. There was no analysis of how drilling, fracking, or wastewater injection could impact the Woodbine, Trinity or Paluxy aquifers in relation to this parcel. The EA does not address the soils or the geology regarding this Lake Lewisville parcel along with other important issues. Therefore, BLM's offer of this parcel is unlawful as it fails to sufficiently address the above issues as required by the National Environmental Protection Act

(NEPA). Please pull this parcel from the April 20 auction. Do not put my family and friend's water, health, and well-being at risk.

OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER

AIR POLLUTION – Denton county is designated as "serious" as part of a 10-county nonattainment area for not having healthy air under the federal Clean Air Act. In early 2015, the EPA took public comments regarding elevating the 10-county DFW area to "severe." Any drilling air emissions will only add to our unhealthy air quality.

In DFW during summer months, the wind primarily blows from southeast to northwest any pollution could impact the Denton airport monitor, which has the worst air pollution readings consistently in our region.

LOCAL ECONOMICS – *Business or the city's local economy may be impacted should this parcel be contaminated.*

WATER POLLUTION – A 2015 peer-reviewed study by Dr. Zachariah Hildenbrand and others, "A Comprehensive Analysis of Groundwater Quality in the Barnett Shale" gives indications that fracking compounds have been detected in water samples near wells sites in an analysis of more than 500 samples in the Barnett shale. Some of this sampling was done in Denton County.

SOIL/DAM IMPACTS– A 2013 presentation by Anita Branch of the Army Corps of Engineers identified new issues of concern in the relationship to dams and drilling. These issues include induced seismicity (earthquakes), the transmission of fracking fluids outside the target zone via natural faults underground, and the disposal of flow back water raising the potential for ground and surface water contamination.

The presentation by the Corps further added that "[e]rosion of the embankment along existing faults located in the foundation, abutments or outlet works [that] could lead to project failure... In other words, a breach in a dam.

RECREATION IMPACTS – If you recreate, run, or boat at Lewisville Lake, feel free to discuss how the impacts that drilling on this parcel could negatively impact you and your family's ability to recreate.

WILDLIFE/MIGRATORY BIRDS – The whooping crane and the least interior tern are on the endangered species list and have been seen on Lewisville Lake (see DFW Urban Wildlife website)

CLIMATE CHANGE – The lifecycle of natural gas drilling heightens the effects of climate change. From the clearing of the well pad to drilling, fracking, storage and combustion, we do not need to add to this problem.

Methane is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide. It is a trigger for the creation of ozone- and is hazardous to human health.

A July 2015 study, "Come Heat and High Water: Climate Risk in the Southeastern U.S." found that Texas will be one of the state's most negatively impacted by climate change by mid-century absent any changes. The study forecasted more hot days, heat-related deaths, sea rise along Texas shoreline, and an annual storm damage increases of at least \$650 million due to increased storm related loss and damage along the Texas coast.

Sincerely,



Boyd Ausley
18708 Park Grove Lane
Dallas, Texas 75287

972-707-0246

BLM please copy Congressman Michael Burgess as well as the following:

Kelle Strickland – DC Chief of Staff
Kelle.strickland@mail.house.gov

Erik With - Local District Chief of Staff
Erik.with@mail.house.gov

Melanie Torres - Director of Constituent Services
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