

Donna Reekie  
723 Winding Band Circle, Highland Village, TX 75077  
214-783-0320

# fax

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|--------|---|--------|--------------|
| TO:    | Amy Lueders, Director and<br>Julie Ann Serrano, Lead Land Law Examiner<br>Bureau of Land Management | FROM:  | Donna Reekie |
| FAX:   | 505-954-2010  | PAGES: | 3            |
| PHONE: |   | DATE:  | 2/17/2016    |
| RE:    | Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale - Parcel<br>NM-201603-43                                       | CC:    |              |

☒ Urgent

☐ For Review

☐ Please Comment

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Comments:

This fax coversheet transmits my formal protest of the Bureau of Land Management's proposed April 21, 2016 auction of parcel NM-201603-43, covering 258.9 acres on/adjacent to Lake Lewistville.

Amy Lauders, Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Julie Ann Serrano, Lead Land Law Examiner  
Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
P.O. Box 27115  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

VIA FAX (505-954-2010) and U.S. Mail

February 17, 2016

**Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale - Parcel NM-201603-43**

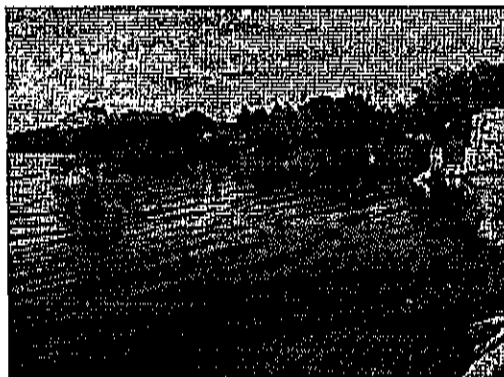
Dear Ms. Lauders and Ms. Serrano:

I am filing this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) planned April 21, 2016 oil and gas lease sale and Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NM-040-2015-61-EA, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. Section 3120.1-3.

I formally protest the inclusion of the following parcel NM-201603-43, covering 258.9 acres on/adjacent to Lake Lewisville.

I am filing this protest on behalf of my family. My name is Donna Reekle and I live at 723 Winding Bend Circle, Highland Village, Texas 75077. I can be reached at 214-783-0320. My email address is [donna\\_reekle@me.com](mailto:donna_reekle@me.com).

I live directly south of the proposed mineral lease. My home sits on a lakefront lot and looks out on the site you are proposing to lease. Twice this year, lake water rose above the flood plain and filled my yard and most of the lakefront properties in my neighborhood with water. See the pictures below of my yard taken in May 2015. The water actually continued to rise after this picture and was within inches of flooding my pool when it began to recede. My iron fence is 6 feet tall and was completely submerged in places.



My yard was flooded in May 2015 and in November 2015, as well as in the summer of 2007. Once flooded, it takes several weeks to months for water to recede to other side of my fence.

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 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 water wells could also impair our public water wells. 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 near well sites in water sampling done in Denton county and other areas of the Barnett shale.

2) I am also concerned about the potential for increased seismic activity from added drilling in and around Lake Lewisville. The Lewisville Dam is currently under repair after a 161 foot by 23 foot slide on an earthen embankment this past spring. There are currently three additional areas of seepage being monitored by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. 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 Lewisville Dam has been listed as the 6<sup>th</sup> most hazardous dam in the country. The Corps has stated that the Lake Lewisville Dam is in urgent need of repair and classified it as a very high-risk dam. The Corps' assessment takes into account the tragic consequences of a dam failure which include: loss of lives downstream in addition to disastrous economic and environmental impact on downstream communities such as Carrollton, Farmers Branch and the City of Dallas. A 2013 presentation by US Army Corps

Engineer, Anita Branch identified issues of concern in the relationship of dams and drilling. The issues include induced seismicity (earthquakes), the transmission of fracking fluids outside the target zone via natural faults underground, and the disposal of flowback water raising the potential for ground and surface water contamination. Ms. Branch also pointed out that gas drilling was not considered in the design of the dams.

3) I am further worried about recreational impacts of potential contaminants in Lake Lewisville. I keep my boat in a boathouse on Lake Lewisville near the proposed site. My family enjoys swimming in the lake and recreational sports that involve being in the water and I am concerned that contaminants from the fracking will result in unsafe water.

4) Lakeside living brings all sorts of wildlife. I frequently enjoy migratory and other birds behind my house and I am concerned about the impact of potential contamination on them. The whooping crane and the least interior tern are on the endangered species list and are among the birds seen on Lake Lewisville.

5) Additionally, the potential impact on home sales in my neighborhood as well as the impact on my local economy should this parcel become contaminated would directly affect my family.

6) Given that I have experienced lake water flooding into my yard on 2 occasions in the last year, my family, my pets and my home would be at risk from any contamination of the water from the proposed lease sale.

7) Denton County air quality is currently designated as "serious" with regard to not having healthy air under the federal Clean Air Act. In 2015, the EPA took public comments regarding elevating the entire 10-county DFW area to "severe." Any drilling air emissions will only add to our unhealthy air quality.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) 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's water, health, and well-being at risk.

Sincerely,



Donna Reekie  
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Highland Village, Tx 75077  
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214-783-0320

cc: Congressman Michael Burgess