

Amy Leuders, Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

2016 FEB 16 PM 6:52

Ellen Hakala  
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Dear Ms. Leuders,

We are writing to PROTEST the lease of parcels of land in the Hickory Creek Branch of Lake Lewisville, TX, and request that the BLM withdraw the property from the auction slated for April 2016. Please consider the potential contamination to the water supply of our region, the unknown effects earthquakes may have on our Lake Lewisville dam and bridges at 2499 and I35, and demise of the beautiful recreational lifestyle afforded to the thousands of visitors to our parks each year, and the impact on our home values. I live on Lake Lewisville, and I do not want the BLM to sell mineral rights near me. Please withdraw the Lake Lewisville property from the auction slated for April 20, 2016.

**Water Contamination:**

Lake Lewisville serves as the primary drinking water reservoir for 2.1 million people. Contamination of Lake Lewisville by toxic, carcinogenic and/or neurotoxic chemicals used in the drilling and hydraulic fracturing processes would render Lake Lewisville water undrinkable with considerable negative consequences for the entire North Texas region.

A study reported on February 5, 2016 in the National Resources Defense Council Blog, "More drinking water contamination linked to the oil and gas industry in Texas and Pennsylvania" cited the Barnett Shale area of North Texas ...

The larger study tested 550 water samples collected from public and private water wells in the north Texas Barnett Shale region over a three-year period and found that the closer a water well is to a fracked gas well, the higher the concentration of contaminants including arsenic, selenium, strontium, and barium. This investigation also found "alarming" levels of benzene, a known carcinogen. Source: [http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/amaill/more\\_drinking\\_water\\_contaminat\\_2.html](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/amaill/more_drinking_water_contaminat_2.html)

"Hydraulic Fracturing Can Potentially Contaminate Drinking Water Sources" article lists 3 risks to drinking water that can occur on the surface, and 4 risks that an occur below the ground surface. In my view, 7 risks of water contamination to our reservoir are too much. <http://www.nrdc.org/water/files/fracking-drinking-water-fs.pdf>

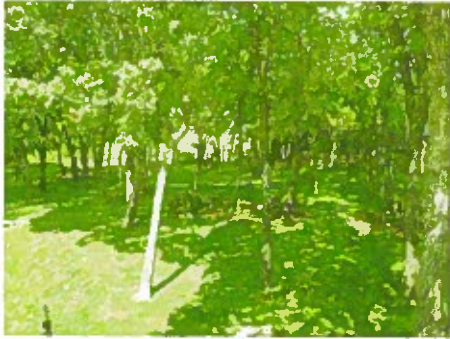
Third article I would like to submit, details 11 more reported incidents of contaminated water in the State of Texas due to fracking for natural gas. (NRDC

Switchboard "contamination" dated February 28, 2014).

[http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/amall/incidents\\_where\\_hydraulic\\_frac.html](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/amall/incidents_where_hydraulic_frac.html)

Last, wastewater from fracking contains potentially harmful pollutants. These pollutants can be dangerous if they are released into the environment, toxic to plants and animals. My back yard has been flooded by the lake three times: June 2007, May 2015 and November 2015. I am concerned for my safety, children who play in my yard, and our pets.

The level of this lake varies greatly. In 2014, it looked like this:



In 2015, this:



I don't think a setback of 1,000 feet from the full lake line is reasonable. Withdraw the property from the auction.

The Bureau of Land Management has not published any materials to justify "No Significant Impact." It appears that there have not been any studies done that have assessed the impact horizontal drilling will have on the lake, nor the runoff from possible oil and gas spills, etc. at the pad site.

### Earthquake Risks

The DMN posted an article, "The Dam Called Trouble," Dec 12, 2015 outlining the repairs needed to this earthen dam. A breach could put 431,000 people in harm's way.

Earthquakes associated with hydraulic fracturing and wastewater 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.

"New Study Ties Fracking Water Disposal to California Earthquakes," by Samantha Page on February 5, 2016. Will an earthquake from this area of the lake cause damage to our dam? Flooding? Loss of life and at least \$21 billion dollars of damage to our DFW metroplex area?

The earthquakes studied in the recent report occurred roughly **five miles** from the injection sites. Not allowing drilling within 3,000 feet of a bridge is not good enough. What impact will earthquakes have on our city? Our shoreline? Parks? Recreation at the lake? The Lewisville Dam? Bridges and roads?

SMU-led seismology teams linked fracking with the earthquakes in Azle, TX. (article) Will potential earthquakes from fracking for gas on Lake Lewisville cause a breach in the Lewisville dam, putting more than 400,000 people in harm's way?

#### **SUMMARY**

- Risk of our reservoir being contaminated is high. We should not risk drinking water for more than 2.4 million people!
- Risk of damage to the Lewisville Dam is evident based on recent scientific studies.
- Our lake, parks, lifestyle will be adversely affected if oil and gas is developed on the lake.

**In order to protect the public safety and water supply at Lewisville Lake, I hereby request that the BLM withdraw the Lewisville Lake Property from its April 20, 2016 auction as authorized in the BLM Notice.**

Sincerely,



Ellen Hakala