

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

February 12, 2016

RE: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale

Dear Ms. Leuders

I am filing this protest of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planned April 20, 2016 oil and gas lease sale and Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NM-2015-61-EA, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3.

I feel it is necessary to formally protest the inclusion of a parcel NM-201603-44 and the 258.9 acres the parcel covers including large sections adjacent to Lewisville Lake.

I am filing this protest on behalf of myself. My name is Ginger Heise and I reside at 3107 Overlook Circle, Highland Village, TX 75077 and can be reached at 469-767-4735. You may also contact me via e-mail at [GingerHeise@me.com](mailto:GingerHeise@me.com)

I have owned a home in Highland Village, TX for over 10 years and have a deep vested interest in this proposed auction on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. As a highly affected party by the auction of the 10 year mineral lease, I have many concerns about the handling and candidly, the thought process around, this proposed transaction.

1. Echoing the concerns of the 2.1 million residents that rely on Lake Lewisville as a clean water source, it is without debate that fracking produces enormous volumes of toxic waste water, often containing cancer causing and even radioactive material. Texas has suffered through decade long drought and only this year has recovered to the point where we have adequate water supplies. Should are largest source of scarce drinkable water in Texas join this list of contaminated water supplies, essentially the city of Dallas would be forever changed in an unthinkable and horrendous way. And while it will be told that the fracking process is safe and our water supply is in no imminent threat, recognize that in New Mexico alone, waste pits from oil and gas drilling have contaminated groundwater on more than 743 occasions. In Colorado, approximately 340 leaks or spills have been reported by drilling operators over the last five year period. A recent study of contamination in drinking water wells in the Barnett Shale area of North Texas found arsenic, selenium and strontium at elevated levels in drinking water wells close to fracking sites. An auction by the BLM to allow fracking on land adjacent to Lake Lewisville is dangerous to myself and my family.
2. Second, it is beyond irresponsible to shun the numerous studies showing a cause and effect relationship with seismic activity and fracking along fault lines. Lake Lewisville Dam is

considered the 7<sup>th</sup> most dangerous in terms of stability in the country. There are three documented areas of seepage already being monitored under the Lake Lewisville Dam. With the cost estimated as high as \$500 million to repair, how can the BLM even consider putting hundreds of thousands at risk of a breach of the Dam by seismic activity linked to fracking?

3. Finally, Denton County is already designated as "serious" under definition by the Clean Air Act. Existing data demonstrates that fracking operations release benzene and methane into our already polluted air. These toxins are known to cause acute and chronic health problems including cancer. It is the responsibility of our Government to put the health and safety of the citizens of this country first and foremost. To use rhetoric about job growth while at the same time turning a blind eye to the undeniable evidence surrounding the negative health issues is inexcusable.

The Environmental Assessment for the proposed lease sale by BLM of parcel NM-201603-44 is flawed both in the research conducted and the procedures to bring to market. The BLM's offer of this parcel is unlawful and morally bankrupt as it fails to sufficiently address the above issues as required by the National Environmental Protection Act. As such, I am requesting that parcel NM-201603-44 be pulled from the April 20<sup>th</sup> auction. Be responsible to the facts and protect the health and safety of my family.

Sincerely,



Ginger Heise  
3107 Overlook Circle  
Highland Village, TX 75077  
469-767-4735  
GingerHeise@me.com