

February 16, 2016
Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
301 Dinosaur Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508

Re: NM-201604-043 258.90 Acres TX TR F-519; TR F-520A; TR F-520B; TR F-524

Dear BLM New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas & Kansas,

As a concerned Dallas Metroplex Citizen, I write to urge you to join the growing majority of Americans against fracking. And ask that you do not auction off the parcel of land labeled NM-201604-043 258.90 Acres TX TR F-519; TR F-520A; TR F-520B; TR F-524 Denton County, COE-NSO-LEWISVILLE LAKE.

The increased use of this dangerous process (fracking) has already put many local communities in harm's way, causing water contamination, negative health effects, earthquakes, and a host of other disastrous impacts. In light of overwhelming and rapidly increasing scientific evidence of harm, we ask that you now acknowledge the inherent dangers in shale development and stand with us and the countless Texas families and communities at risk from fracking across Texas. The exploration of unconventional shale energy reserves and the extensive use of hydraulic fracturing during well stimulation have raised concerns about the potential effects of unconventional oil and gas extraction (UOG) on the environment.

These impacts are being borne by far too many Americans across the country. Water contamination and air pollution with dangerous endocrine disruptors and carcinogens are increasingly common. Many parents now have to worry about what their children are drinking and breathing, often reporting increased rates of asthma, difficulty breathing, excessive nose bleeds, and other acute health problems linked to the chemicals from fracking operations. In Pennsylvania for example, the state has confirmed at least 243 instances of water contamination. In Texas, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and elsewhere, researchers have found disturbing levels of ground-level ozone and volatile organic compounds, including carcinogenic benzene and formaldehyde.

In many states, fracking and associated toxic wastewater disposal wells are causing thousands of earthquakes. CNN reported that Fracking has led to an increase of earthquakes in the Dallas Metroplex. In 2015, the Dallas area had 58 earthquakes.

In addition, this parcel of land falls within the stipulation of WO-ESA-7 THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION. The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM has stated that it may not approve any ground disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq. Earthquakes caused from fracking will cause ground-disturbing activity and threaten any endangered species. This is a direct violation of 16 U.S. Code § 1531[5].

Fracking this parcel of land also brings additional risks as Jason Vazquez, Dam Safety Program Manager for the Army Corps of Engineers, has noted that the Lewisville dam is currently ranked as Dam Safety Action Class 2, with "very high" risk and "failure initiation foreseen." According to Vazquez, a breach in the Lewisville dam would create a 65-foot-tall flood wave traveling 34 mph and would quickly inundate a wide swath of Lewisville, Coppell, Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Irving, Las Colinas and other communities bordering the Trinity River.

The wave would sweep everything in its path — the Lewisville dump, water treatment plants, LBJ Freeway, the Bush Turnpike, Interstate 35E, the State Highway 121 Tollway, Love Field, the Hospital District, office complexes, senior citizen centers, shelters, schools, playgrounds and 53,000 other structures. Projected death toll exceeds 431,000.

Given the demonstrable threats that fracking poses to our health, water, and climate, we implore you to listen to the science, listen to the pleas of mothers and fathers who don't want their children to breathe or drink toxic chemicals, and join the anti-fracking majority. We ask that you join us in taking a stand against fracking, and we ask that you do not auction off the parcel of land labeled NM-201604-043 258.90 Acres TX TR F-519; TR F-520A; TR F-520B; TR F-524 Denton County, COE-NSO-LEWISVILLE LAKE.

Sincerely,


Concerned Dallas Area Citizen

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