

Don Leverty
3000 Lakeside Drive
Highland Village, TX 75077

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February 12, 2016

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

RE: Protest against mineral lease: NM-201604-043 258.90 Acres

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 adjacent to and under Lewisville Lake in Denton County, Texas.

My wife and I are personally affected by this proposal. We own and reside in the house located at 3000 Lakeside Drive, Highland Village, TX 75077. Our home is a few hundred yards south of the proposed lease, and our health and safety will be harmed by directional drilling in such close proximity. This conclusion is based on the following concerns:

- BLM acknowledges that the well(s) will be located in the North Texas Non-Attainment Area and explains that it cannot estimate the amount of emissions that will be released once the well(s) are completed. It would be highly irresponsible to open the door to more drilling and air quality degradation in a Non-Attainment Area, especially when it is not possible to predict the consequences.
- The drilling (and presumably water injection) would occur under or near Lake Lewisville. The lake is a water source for many municipalities in the Dallas area, so chemical contamination could be catastrophic. We have no assurances that the winning bid will not go to an operator with an unsatisfactory safety record. Your notice states: "The BLM encourages industry to incorporate and implement best management practices (BMPs)." This confirms that the agency has no ability to regulate drilling after the lease is signed.
- The Environmental Assessment is frighteningly inadequate because it does not address the potential of earthquakes triggered by fracking. The scientific consensus is that fracking is associated with seismic activity, including earthquakes, and Oklahoma and North Texas have been especially plagued by an increase in devastating quakes. At a very minimum, prudence would dictate that we wait for recommendations from the seismic research consortium of Stanford, the University of Texas, and Southern Methodist University before allowing additional fracking.

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- Perhaps the most frightening consequence is the very real possibility that fracking will trigger a seismic event resulting in the failure of Lewisville Lake Dam. The Corps of Engineers has deemed it the eighth-most-hazardous dam in the country. Erosion has significantly weakened the structure, which holds back 2.5 billion tons of water. A dam failure would wipe out communities north of Dallas and reach all the way to downtown Dallas, 30 miles away, drowning it under 50 feet of water.

I understand that BLM followed the letter of law regarding notification to the public, but in this instance the law was inadequate. Affected home owners and municipalities found out about the auction accidentally, in early February 2016, several months after the formal process had begun. Affected parties were not able to participate in the comment process and, working under a February 18 deadline for protests, have had to scramble to learn about the proposal and the issues involved.

I urge BLM to cancel the auction of Parcel 043. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely



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