

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

2016 FEB 19 PM 1:39

February 15, 2016

**Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale**

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 (also marked as MN-201603-44 on EA p. 17/101) covering a total of 258.9 acres on Lewisville Lake.

**I am filing this protest on behalf of myself, my family and my neighbors. My name is Ted Stranczek and I live at 772 Lakewood Court, Highland Village, TX 75077. I can be reached at 972-318-8992 and/or via email at tstranczek@aol.com.**

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) My home is located on the shores of Lewisville Lake. My drinking water comes from Lewisville Lake. Highland Village has additional wells not far from Lewisville 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 aquifers 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 in water samples near wells sites in an analysis of more than 500 samples in the Barnett shale. Some of this sampling was done in Denton County.
- 2) I am also concerned about the potential for increased seismic activity from added drilling in and around Lewisville Lake. Just look what is happening in Oklahoma...the "new" Earthquake capital of America. There is a direct correlation between fracking and the resultant waste water injection that could cause irreparable damage to my home, property and that of all my neighbors.
- 3) The Lewisville dam is currently under repair after a 161-foot long, 23-foot wide slide on an earthen embankment this past spring. Additional drilling or the migration of drilling fluids along existing fault areas below the lake could negatively impact the dam embankment or cause a breach. A major breach could put 430,000 residents downstream at risk of flooding and be a loss of our local water supply.
- 4) 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. Please do not put my family's water, health, and well-being at risk.

Sincerely,



Ted Stranczek, Lewisville Lake Resident, Highland Village Texas 75077