

Amy Lueders - Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

2016 FEB 19 PM 1:54

Feb. 16, 2016

Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale

Dear Ms. Lueders,

I am filing this as a Protest of the BLM's 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 on/adjacent to Lewisville Lake. I am filing this protest on behalf of myself, my family, and our businesses.

My name is Sharon Barnhill and I live at 3329 Hummingbird Lane in Denton, Texas 76209 and I can be reached at 940-390-6303. My email is sebarnhill@hotmail.com

I'm a water drinker. I don't do sodas, tea, etc... but I consume water all day long. I have pets who drink water and their little systems are very susceptible to toxins in the smallest amount. I have grand children who drink water, play in the water, and bathe in water. Same thing. Little systems, much more vulnerable.

I have a veteran son-in-law who worked on a gas rig. He knew it was killing him, but it was the only work he could find. He has seen the illegal dumping, the returning trucks – paid by the load – coming back for more waste long before they had time to take the waste to an approved drop-off location. (makes you wonder where they're dumping the poison) Of course, here in Denton County, Texas, we caught some Oil and Gas folks illegally dumping into one of our creeks. I think they gave them a lollipop or something. Rest assured, no one went to jail)

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. Many communities get their drinking water from Lake Lewisville and public water works near the lake. I'm worried about the contamination of the water from the drilling run-off from the sites – full of mystery poisons and toxins. It happens. It happens a lot.
2. I'm worried about the seismic activity associated with fracking. Already numerous home-owners are out their main investment: their homes – because of the increased earthquakes caused by injecting massive amounts of poisons into the earth's crust. Currently the Lewisville Dam is under repair. The damage is likely attributed to seismic activity in the area. Are these drilling companies going to be there to compensate the hundreds of people affected when the dam falls? When their foundations crumble?
3. I have friends who searched and studied before purchasing a home on the lake. The reason they chose a lake property has nothing to do with lake activities – which they do not participate in – but because they felt it was the last bastion of safety, away from the fracking. Now you're trying to take that last bit of control over someone's health and safety for a buck?
4. I breathe air. So do my pets and my grandkids. North Texas is already struggling with toxins in our air. It's no secret drilling and fracking release Methane into the air, so NO.

The Environmental Assessment 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 Nat'l Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Please pull this parcel from the April 20 auction.

I am asking that you use reason and do not put my family, friends, and pets' drinking water in jeopardy just to make a quick buck.

Sincerely,  

Sharon & Bill Barnhill

3329 Hummingbird Lane, Denton, Texas 76209

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