

Via Fax – 505.954.2010

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

February 18, 2016

Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale at Lewisville Lake, TX

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, as a citizen of Dallas who will be severely impacted by a breach of the Lewisville Dam, loss of water supply, and a reduction in air quality. My name Linda Cooke and I live at 4029 Lively Lane, Dallas, TX 75220-1871. I can be reached by telephone at 214-353-9694 or via email at lindacooke@att.net.

There are many reasons I feel I am an affected party by the auction of the 10-year mineral lease on the Lewisville Lake parcels, and I am listing only a few primary concerns here:

I am especially concerned about increased seismicity which may occur from added drilling activities in and around Lake Lewisville. The Lewisville dam is 60 years old, beyond the lifespan of such a dam according to the Army Corps of Engineers. The dam is currently undergoing substantial repair after a large slide on the 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 myself and an estimated 430,000 residents downstream at risk of flooding and result in the loss of our local water supply. The location of my home is within the zone predicted to be most severely affected by flooding.

Further, my drinking water comes from Lewisville Lake and the city of Dallas also has additional wells in the area. I am concerned about the possible contamination of our drinking water through drilling runoff from the site, as well as potential migration of contaminants through our aquifers which could also compromise our public water wells.

Additionally, the releases of noxious gases associated with hydraulic fracturing will contribute to air pollution and reduce the air quality of the area, which is already polluted at unacceptable levels based on standards set by federal regulatory agencies. The new State Impact Plan submitted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality does nothing to bring DFW air pollution into compliance with EPA regulations, and will actually insure a reduction in air quality below current unacceptable levels. As a person whose auto-immune system is already compromised by existing air pollution, I must speak out against any further decline.

I cannot travel to Arlington, where Barnett Shale fracking is in full swing only twenty-five miles from my house, and attend a meeting without experiencing breathing problems. Unfortunately, the offices of the North Central Texas Council of Government, where regional air quality and other environmental hearings are held, are located in Arlington so in order to attend I must risk my health. Last summer, after I participated in Arlington's annual 4th of July Parade, I came down with a bronchitis that put me in bed for four days, so I now plan to consider the activity status of drilling in the area in my decision to participate in the future.

If air quality at Lewisville Lake becomes contaminated like Arlington, I will no longer be able to spend time volunteering as a Master Naturalist at the horticultural and aquatic research facilities located near the Lewisville Dam. Nor will I be able to spend time birding in the area, which is used by many species whose habitats have been encroached by surrounding development, and are difficult to find elsewhere now. Species sighted there include endangered species like the Whooping Crane and Least Tern.

Finally, I believe the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed lease sale is procedurally flawed and reckless, due to the lack of analysis of how drilling, hydraulic fracturing, or wastewater injection of this parcel could impact the Woodbine, Trinity or Paluxy aquifers. The EA does not address the soils or the geology regarding this Lake Lewisville parcel along with other important issues, particularly the structural condition of the dam. 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). I respectfully request that you pull this parcel from the April 20 auction. Please do not put my home, water supply, and health and well-being at risk.

With sincere concern,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda C. Cooke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and last name "Cooke" clearly legible.

Linda C. Cooke
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Dallas, TX 75220-1871
214-353-9694
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