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Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
301 Dinosaur Trail Santa Fe,
P.O. Box 27115
New Mexico 87508
Feb. 10, 2016

2016 FEB 16 PM 6:05

RE: NM-201604-043 Denton County

To who it may concern:

This letter is to protest the sale of drilling rights surrounding and under Lake Lewisville, Texas. Drilling activity in this area will negatively impact on public safety and the local economy. In the worse case scenario – since a number of residents here felt severe seismic shaking in 2008 – Fracking in this area could contribute further to the undermining of Lake Lewisville's already compromised earth dam and flood Dallas under a 60 foot wave. If you don't believe me, read The Dallas Morning News's predictions of what could happen when the dam fails.

The entire region under and around Lake Lewisville should be removed from sale of lease of mineral rights FOREVER. Fracking is particularly unsafe in this location!

I also protest the fact that only an informed CABAL of oil and gas industry professionals were aware of the sale until the story broke in the Lewisville Texan Journal last week. I found about the proposed sale of leases the next day when the article was posted on Facebook and immediately spoke to someone in your office to confirm what was going on. She guided me through your complex website so that I could find the lease auction information buried many, many layers deep. I then wrote an information sheet and distributed it to local government agencies and to neighbors whose homes were directly above the leases as well. NO ONE knew about this. Private landowners, public officials, NO ONE knew. The PUBLIC should be informed about the sale of public lands in a timely manner and burying the information on a little-visited website is not the answer.

I. Public safety

Water - Lake Lewisville is the major water source for many DFW residents. Important tributaries to the western fork of Lake Lewisville – such as Veal Springs Branch and Hickory Creek- lie within the 1 mile range of the proposed leases. To safeguard our lake and the lake's watershed, these tributaries must also be safe from potential fracking accidents such as the one in April 2015 which occurred just south in Arlington, Texas. That's when a blow-back during Fracking operations in the city of Arlington, Texas spewed toxic Fracking fluids into the streets, the storm sewers, and Lake Arlington's tributaries for over 24 hours. It took 4 efforts to cap the well-head and over 100 homes were evacuated. If this occurred in Corinth, Hickory Creek, or Highland Village – much smaller communities – it's unlikely that our much smaller Emergency Management teams could safely evacuate residents.

Unsafe dam – Right now, Lake Lewisville's earth dam is undergoing emergency repairs. Last Fall, the Dallas Morning News broke the story about the dam being dangerously undermined and cautioned that if it failed a 60 foot high wave would wash through Farmer's Branch, Carrollton, and would flood Dallas's entire hospital district! Lake Lewisville is at flood levels and it's only the beginning of the year, so these concerns are valid. I've heard that the Army Corps of Engineers needs to build a completely new concrete dam to keep Dallas safe. The proposed Fracking activity could not just endanger the dam, but the city of Dallas.

II. Local geology around the lake is unstable. - The Lewisville Texan Journal reported that last night the Highland Village City Council voted to protest the proposed gas leases after a local resident and geologist,

"Gerald Bartz showed the council maps of the lake, where he said three long geological features known as lineaments converged around the area of Lewisville Dam. He said that fracking under one of the lineaments could provide the lubrication to cause movement that would damage the dam." Highland Village were unaware of the proposed sale of leases around and under the lake until last week.

We may have had an earthquake here in 2008. Around Feb. 8, 2008, the ground around here shook violently. We who live right where the leases would be sold off felt the shocks. Like other Denton County residents, my family here in Kensington Estates felt severe shaking of our house and heard unground noises. The entire house shook and I watched the glass window over our tub ripple and shake, but not break, and screamed. My husband thought a plane had exploded overhead. Our children ran screaming downstairs, saying the water heater had blown up. Our next-door neighbor - a former Police chief and City Councilman, was also rattled as were neighbors in Oak Bluff Estates on the other side of Veal Springs Branch. Just today, a neighbor across FM 2181 in Cypress Pointe wrote on Nextdoor when I asked if anyone else had felt a shock that day, "I felt it. People thought I was crazy! I thought a car hit my house. It shook good!"

In 2008, I contacted a local reporter who'd written an article to tell her that we'd also felt the shaking. This is the article <http://peggyheinkelwolfe.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Residents-rattled-but-by-what.pdf>. In 2010, during the XTO Energy Fracking debates, I was told by an elderly woman that she'd felt the same shock and it was because an underground Fracking gas well blew up off Post Oak Road. To this date, we have no real answer as to what actually occurred. After the shock hit, I noticed our patio began sinking. Others have found structural cracks.

II. There is no easy or safe route for Fracking wastes to be transported to a storage facility.

The route is to take FM 2181 east to I-35N and north to a disposal site.

Virtually 80% of major roads in the DFW area – including these roads - are under major construction. Accidents are frequent on FM 2181, the route Fracking wastes would take to I-35 north. In Fall of 2014, just outside of our neighborhood's entrance, we had 6 wrecks in 7 days (I was #6), and we anticipate similar conditions when our 2-lane road becomes 6 lanes due to limited line-of-sight at several key accident-prone intersections. I-35 in Corinth has been the site of frequent and dramatic wrecks which have shut down the entire highway for hours. We've had many 18 wheelers flip over in the construction zone, 8-car accidents involving 18-wheelers, and it's going to be years until TxDot finishes I-35's expansion to 16 lanes.

III. Fracking will drop local property values, as to access the lease, homes will be undercut by horizontal drilling. The proposed lease area sits under or directly next to several luxury home developments, including neighborhood of bespoke Chinese-developed multi-million dollar homes at Long Lake. Long Lake is to include an upscale restaurant and shops and was hoped to bring much needed tax dollars into the community.

IV. The mere fact that public mineral rights around and underneath the lake could be sold off and developed without the knowledge of residents or public officials is a serious concern. Congressman Burgess and US Representative Myra Crownover's offices told citizens that they were unaware that the lake lease was to be in the April 2016 auction. If only a CABAL of oil and gas industry people know about these leases, it serves them and not our country!

Sincerely,


Virginia M. Holt

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