

February 19, 2016

SENT VIA FAX : 505-954-2115

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

Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale – Parcels #TXNM201604-038, -039, -040, -041, -042, -043

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 parcels #TXNM201604-038, -039, -040, and -041, on Somerville Lake. These parcels have also been described as including -042 and -043. I am filing this protest on behalf of myself and my family because Lake Somerville is the reservoir for Brenham's city water.

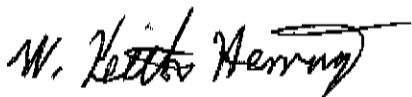
The reason I feel I am an affected party by the auction of the 10-year mineral lease on the property is due to the following concerns:

- 1) My city obtains drinking water from Somerville Lake. I am worried about the contamination of our drinking water through possible drilling runoff from the site and possible migration of contaminants through our aquifers.
- 2) I am concerned about the potential for increased seismicity from drilling and disposal of fracking wastewater in and around Somerville Lake.
- 3) The Brazos River Authority (BRA), which manages the water in Lake Somerville, is also asking for more time for public input and review of the oil and gas lease sale and Environmental Assessment.
- 4) As a member of the Brenham City Council, I believe it is my responsibility to represent and protect our citizens and to ensure a long-term healthy water source for our City's use.

Based on the information that I have received to date, there is concern that 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 aquifers. The EA does not address the soils or the geology of Somerville Lake. Therefore, BLM's offer of this parcel is potentially unlawful as it fails to sufficiently address the above issues as required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

Please pull the above named parcels from the April 20 auction.

Sincerely,



W. Keith Herring

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