

2-16-2016

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

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, 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 my community. My Robin Higgins and I live at 230 LaMesa Dr, Highland Village, Tx 75077 and I can be reached at 972-816-0773. My email is robinlhiggins@gmail.com.

I was sad to hear about the possibility of gas fracking/drilling in my area, I live in Highland Village, and we live close to the lake, and boat/fish at the lake on a regular basis, but more importantly is the possibility of drilling so close to this water source for so many, and possible noise, waste, water, air and potential for contamination. Please rethink your position on the leasing of this property. I have lived in this area for 30 years, and we never had any earthquakes in this area until they started extracting gas from the Barnett Shale in the area, it has caused a lot of heartache and damage to homes in the area. Please do not allow drilling in the area.

1) Highland Village obtains its drinking water supply from Lake Lewisville and public water wells near the 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.

2) I am also concerned about the potential for increased seismicity from added drilling in and around Lake Lewisville. 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 integrity of the dam's infrastructure.

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 National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Please pull this parcel from the April 20 auction. Do not put my family's water, health, and well-being at risk.

Sincerely, Robin L Higgins

Robin L Higgins 972-816-0773