

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

February 14, 2016

**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 (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 my family. My name is Nicholas Noonan and I live at 2610 Fernwood Dr. Highland Village, TX 75077 and I can be reached at 972.317.6123. My email is ncknoonan@gmail.com.

Our main concern is our drinking and all other water we use comes from Lewisville Lake. We also frequently use the Lewisville Lake for recreation including boating, camping, hiking, etc. In addition, we made our home next to the lake 24 years ago in order to see pristine views everyday. Our concern is the impending land lease will certainly impact some of these and may well terminate all of our benefits associated with Lewisville Lake.

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:

- 1) My drinking water come from Lewisville Lake. Our city also has additional wells not far from Lewisville 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 dam embankment or cause a breach. A major breach could put 430,000 residents downstream at risk of flooding and be a loss of our local water supply.

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 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, Nicholas Noonan   
2610 Fernwood Dr. Highland Village, TX 75077  
972.317.6123 ncknoonan@gmail.com