



Dallas Regional Group

P.O. Box 800365
Dallas, TX 75380

VIA FAX (505) 954-2010

February 19, 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, Parcel NM-201604-044

Dear Ms. Leuders:

I am filing a Protest for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s 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 am filing this protest on behalf of the Dallas Regional Group of Sierra Club regarding Parcel NM-201604-044 which is also marked -043 in some places of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Our membership in the Dallas metro area includes over 3000 members. We believe our members are affected by the 259-acre parcel on Lewisville Lake due to the following reasons:

1) Lewisville Lake is a drinking water source. Many of our members live downstream from the dam.

Many of our members get their drinking water through Dallas Water Utilities which obtains its water from Lewisville Lake, one of DFW's major water supplies. We do not want our members' drinking water potentially threatened by runoff from drilling operations should a spill occur and contaminate the water quality of this major drinking source.

2) If Lewisville Lake is breached, flood waters would reach many of our members' homes and businesses within an hour.

Sierra Club is concerned about what induced seismicity may do to Lewisville Lake dam. The Lewisville dam has recently experienced a 160-foot, 23-foot wide embankment slide. It is my understanding that there are concerns within the region re: dams in the Barnett Shale since numerous sources, including water suppliers, are conducting surveys of dams in the area and evaluating them for induced seismic effects. If Lewisville Lake's dam breaches, many of our members homes and businesses would be flooded within an hour if the lake was at capacity or full according to the Army Corps of Engineers "Dam Safety" sheet.

The EA for this April 20th sale fails to meet the basic requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

As the chair of the Dallas Sierra Club, we find the posting of two deadlines for a public protest of Feb. 18 and Feb. 19 by a federal agency unacceptable. This EA is substantively and procedurally flawed and in violation of NEPA. Issues such as surrounding water supplies and their importance to local communities for drinking water, along with issues of air quality, climate change, economic impacts, etc., are not adequately addressed.

This parcel for the April 20th sale should be pulled, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is warranted due to this major drinking water supply and the negative impacts that could result from drilling.

Wendel Withrow, Chair
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