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Paula Horan Moseley
Service - Safety Director



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October 7, 2011

Dr. John Lyon, Eastern States Office Director
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, Virginia 22153

RE: Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale on 2623.57 acres in Athens County, Ohio (OHES 57246 ACQ, ES-044-12/11, OHES 57247 ACQ; and ES-045-12/11, OHES 57248 ACQ)

Dear Dr. Lyon:

The City of Athens Wellhead Protection team, Athens, Ohio protests the Bureau of Land Management's planned offering of OHES 57246 ACQ (264.93 acres, Athens County); ES-044-12/11, OHES 57247 ACQ (1,238.06 acres, Athens County); and ES-045-12/11, OHES 57248 ACQ (1,120.58 acres, Athens County) at the December 7, 2011 lease sale in accordance with 43 CFR 3120.1-3. These parcels are publicly owned lands of the Wayne National Forest.

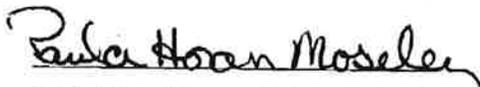
Interest of Protesting Party: The City of Athens Wellhead Protection team is accountable for the health and safety of its drinking water that serves the communities in our area. To date, there is insufficient research on the effects the proposed activities from the sale of oil and gas leases would have on our drinking water source. Athens City Council, along with Ohio University, have also offered a protest of this sale. We echo their concerns for regional water safety.

Statement of Reasons: It is our duty as the City of Athens Wellhead Protection team to protect our drinking water source. The potential December 7, 2011 sale of the publicly owned lands referenced above poses a threat to the City of Athens source of drinking water.

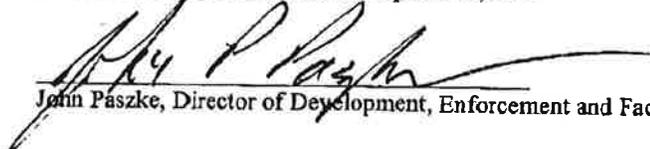
The City of Athens Wellhead Protection team is currently unable to support a practice that is not strictly regulated and highly accountable. We request the withdrawal of the lease sale until a comprehensive, objective environmental and economic analysis is conducted and the absence of risk to our water supply, community health, and local economy can be assured.

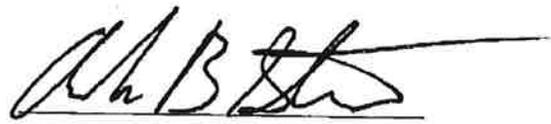
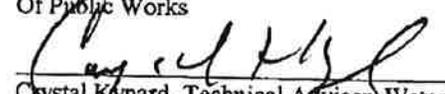
Sincerely,

City of Athens Wellhead Protection Team


Paula Horan Moseley, Service-Safety Director


Michael B. Cooper, Enforcement Specialist, R.S.


John Paszke, Director of Development, Enforcement and Facilities


Andy Stone, City Engineer and Director
Of Public Works

Crystal Kynard, Technical Advisor, Water
Treatment Plant Manager