

Kemba K. Anderson-Artis, Supervisory Land Law Examiner  
Division of Natural Resources  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States  
7450 Boston Boulevard  
Springfield, Virginia 22153

Fax # 703-440-1551

Oct. 6, 2011

Dear Ms. Anderson-Artis

Save Our Rural Environment (S.O.R.E.), an Ohio unincorporated association wishes to object to the proposed selling of new gas drilling leases by the Bureau of Land Management in Wayne National Forest. We hereby protest the agency's planned offering of ES-041-12/11, OHES 57244 ACQ (528.15 acres, Perry County); ES-042-12/11, OHES 57245 ACQ (150.65 Acres, Gallia County); ES-043-12/11, 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. The five parcels are publicly owned lands of the Wayne National Forest.

The Wayne National Forest is a fabulous resource for Southeast Ohio. We do not want a series of 5 to 10 acre industrial sites, that the horizontal hydro fracking process requires, scattered over the forest. The haul roads and pipelines will disrupt the forest. We do not think that this industrialization is in keeping with role of the Wayne and its plan. Nor is it the intent of the laws that established national forest lands for public use.

We are greatly concerned that the horizontal hydro fracking will impact our water resources. Tremendous amounts of water are used in these operations. Where is that water going to come from? Is it going to come from the same resources we who live here depend upon? After the water, and unidentified chemicals, are injected into the deep wells, water comes back out and it will have those chemicals in it. And it may have brought up radioactive materials. Where does that "water plus" go and what additional risks do we face to our water? When it fails, how will you correct it?

Additionally, we are concerned that toxic sludge burial at the wellhead site puts the aquifer at risk.

The leasing process itself is flawed. The fact that BLM receives "interest in the oil and gas rights" and that alone initiates BLM to act on putting the rights to bid makes the public suspect and willing to protest this event. We cannot find out who the interested party is until after the bids are open. The public has no way to research the company nor lobby our representatives with any meaningful way except to say NO to anyone who wants to drill.

We call for a moratorium on this leasing process to access what the risks are, what the mitigation costs are, how this large-scale process fits with the Wayne plan.

We further call for the removal of the law that exempts fracking waste from the Clean Water Act. This exemption risks our water to advantage a special interest. The oil and gas industry needs to have the same rules applied to them as apply to other endeavors.

Sincerely,



Sandra Sleight-Brennan, Spokesperson  
Save Our Rural Environment  
10130 Redbud Rd.  
Stewart, OH 45778

CC: Senator Sherrod Brown  
Senator Rob Portman