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Comments on Proposed Leasing of Oil and Gas Rights July 14, 2013

We wish the following to be entered as Public Comments concerning the Environmental Assessment for EOI-266 in Oceana County, Michigan.

Before offering comments I believe it is necessary to describe the community where the requested leasing area is located. Part of the requested leasing area is in a home owner association (Duna Vista Resorts). The community is located in wooded sand dunes adjacent to Lake Michigan, with Lake Michigan being one boundary and the other boundary being business US 31 (Oceana Drive) . The community consists of approximately 110 property owners with around 90 homes and cottages. There is a mix of full time residents and seasonal residents. The community is occupied year-around. For much of the summer the population rises to 300 to 500 people at any given time.

All of these homes/cottages have wells and septic systems so the availability and quality of water is of upmost importance. Also a great many of the homes in Duna Vista use propane as energy to heat with; thus, there are many above-ground tanks (500 gallon) propane tanks.

Part of the community consists of land designated as "Critical Dunes Area" and is under the protection of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Within Duna Vista our woods shelter deer, foxes, coyotes, turkeys, and other animals. There have been bear and bobcat sightings. We enjoy bird watching right here at our home where we have hummingbirds, eagles, hawks, and songbirds to name a few.

A campground (Hill and Hollow) with 200 family camp sites and two swimming pools, borders Duna Vista to the South. During the summer months the campground is full, particularly on the weekends. Considering an average of four (4) persons per camp site this gives the potential of eight hundred (800) people at the camp ground.

The campground population's added to the population of Duna Vista gives a potential of 1300 hundred people in a small area during the summer. In addition there is a commercial enterprise connected to the camp ground (AJ'S) which has miniature golf, video games and a go cart track which does a thriving business during the summer.

It should be noted the campground also has well and septic systems. In addition, the campground has at least two (2) very large above ground propane tanks used for heating, cooking etc.

Therefore we see any oil or gas exploration in this area as having a potentially disastrous effect on the environment and subsequently to the property owners in this area.

Concerns:

1. Lake Michigan is located approximately ½ mile from the proposed leasing area. It should be noted the Great Lakes make up 2/3 of the world fresh water and the close proximity to the proposed lease area could result in pollution of the Lake in case of an accident or spill of some type.

* 2. We have concern for the aquifer due to the use of huge amounts of water for certain types of drilling (fracking) which may cause residents to have to drill new wells, or may deplete the existing water supply altogether. In addition, if there were an accident the aquifer could be poisoned, rendering the water unusable. * *It should be noted that the BLM Environmental assessment is in error stating that there are only 81 wells in the decision area. Duna Vista alone has more than 90 wells. We would estimate that the decision area has well over 125 wells. (See Page 17, last paragraph of the Environmental Assessment)*

3. We have a great concern for safety in case of a gas release either planned or unplanned. As you are aware from the assessment there is only one road into or out of Duna Vista. The entrance is located in the area to be auctioned. We wish to bring your attention to the fact that the greater portion of Duna Vista and nearby areas were designated “residential” and “resort residential” on 10-29-91, effective 03-25-92. According to our Michigan Department of Environmental Quality regulations *“When a well contains 300 ppm or more of hydrogen sulfide, surface facilities or associated flare stacks may not be located in areas which have been zoned residential before January 8, 1993.*

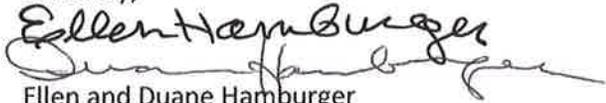
4. We are concerned that even the leasing of oil and gas rights will have an adverse effect on property values.

5. We feel any drilling will have an adverse effect on our woods, erode our fragile dunes and destroy the tranquility of our home and surroundings and deprive us of the enjoyment of our animals and birds. In addition, it will rob us of our peace of mind for reasons well-documented in the BLM’s environmental assessment.

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In summary, my wife and I are certainly not against clean energy but we clearly are against drilling for gas and oil where the disruption is great and risk is high. The BLM environmental assessment stated on Page 20 *"The proposed action is unlikely to result in the discovery of a new hydrocarbon play and is likely to continue the ongoing depletion of the well-inventoried limestone plays described in RFDS (appendix B)."* On page 38 (Section VI.) The last two (2) sentences *"The southern property appears to be off the productive portion of the structure, as evidenced by a dry hole drilled about three hundred feet from the eastern boundary. It is unlikely that this tract will be drilled."* In addition, on page 23 of the environmental assessment it states in the third paragraph *"The project would likely bring very small revenues in the form of royalty payments, severance taxes, and rent monies to the State and county; wages and salaries to employees, maintenance staff, and contractors who are employed in drilling wells; sales to area hotels, restaurants, and other businesses that serve drillers for the duration of drilling and similar construction-related benefits later as wells are abandoned and sites restored."* It would appear that with the idea there will be very little oil or gas produced and very little positive economic impact that the risk to reward of this project is somewhere near zero. In truth, the presence of oil and gas drilling in the area would impact tourism and have a negative impact on the economy.

Sincerely;



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