



Concerning the BLM Oil and Gas Environmental Assessment (EOI-266)

Brian Bostwick <brian@sbmtn.com>

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To: ES_EOI_Nominations@blm.gov

Cc: Sue Gwillim <sue@sbmtn.com>

I am writing in regarding the Expression of Interest- 266 (EOI-266) concerning oil and gas leasing within Pentwater and Duna Vista subdivision. I do not believe that the total economic and environmental impact of drilling and fracking has been fully identified in the study.

The environmental impact indicated in the study is understated or does not fully disclose the true impact. Twenty five percent of the area was identified as severe erosion, with another 5% as moderate erosion. Thirty percent of the area has erosion concerns, which by itself is significant enough to have grave concerns about the environmental impact of gas extraction.

Additionally Pentwater Township gets its water from wells. The proposed site is within one kilometer of a significant number of houses with wells, including mine. The map indicating well locations appears to under represent the total number of wells. There are 100 homes in Duna Vista alone, each with a well. By just looking at the map I can identify several missing wells.

Recent studies are finding that fracking is contaminating nearby well water. A study done by Duke University (<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/news/higher-levels-of-stray-gases-found-in-water-wells-near-shale-gas-sites>) of well water within communities around fracking site found that on average methane concentrations were six times higher and ethane concentrations were 23 times higher than normal. This finding is of grave concern to our community. Fracking activities will lead to contaminated well water, and possible contamination to both Bass Lake and Lake Michigan. Oil industry can claim that fracking is safe, but the studies are showing that their protections are flawed or are not being followed properly, which has lead to environmental impact not in limited places but across the entire areas study.

Pentwater Township is significantly a vacation and retirement community. According to the US census (<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>) Pentwater Township has a 63% vacancy rate. This vacancy rate is not attributed to poor economics or a bad housing market, but is attributed to the fact that Pentwater is a vacation destination and these vacant homes are actually second homes and vacation rental properties. The properties here are valued for the aesthetic qualities, which include the surrounding forest, bodies of water and tranquility. The introduction of oil extraction with the known noise and heavy vehicle traffic will impact the esthetic quality of the area that brings Pentwater its value. All of this will have a significant impact on home values. Additionally the threat to water quality should be considered. Just the potential for a hazard's accident in the drilling process will keep many buyers away from purchasing in the area because of fear of the wells being contaminated. If there is a spill or leak the homes will become uninhabitable due to no access to clean water, which will send the home values to virtually zero.

Tourism should also be considered. Pentwater is a tourist destination location. If you consider all of the environmental, real and potential, impact that is possible it is easy to see that oil extraction has the potential to additionally impact the tourism industry here in a town that depends on it for a significant amount of its business.

Overall I believe that the findings in the study over look or over simplify the conditions unique to Pentwater. Pentwater is not a typical drilling site in the middle of low population farmland or open BLM land. Pentwater is the on Lake Michigan with vast amount of fragile ecological resources. The \$2.00 to \$3.00 an acre that the state will get is but a smallest of a fraction of the cost to the residence if drilling is allowed, with the worst case potential for destroying hundreds of homes by contaminating the well water.

Brian Bostwick & Susan Gwillim
9199 N Paulina Ave
Pentwater, MI 49449