

February 15, 2016

Ms. Amy Leuders
Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

RECEIVED
BLM - SANTA FE
2016 FEB 19 PM 1:45
STATE OF
SANTA FE, N.M. 87504

Re: Protest of BLM Planned Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Dear Ms. Leuders:

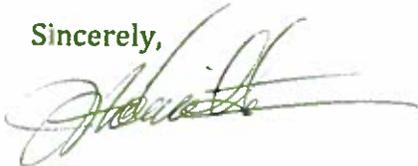
Please accept this letter as a formal protest on my wife's and my behalf regarding the planned BLM Gas and Oil Lease Sale scheduled to occur on April 20, 2016. More specifically, we protest the inclusion of the NM-201603-43 parcel that covers approximately 259 acres both on or adjacent to the Lewisville Lake. Our lakefront home and property are located in the Highland Shores Community and we are concerned that this proposed activity will detrimentally affect us in numerous ways, including the following:

- 1) The potential for increased seismicity (earthquakes) from drilling in and around the lake. The Lewisville Lake Dam is currently under repair as resulted from a recent 161' long, 23' wide slide of its earthen embankment. Drilling and/or fracking along existing fault-areas at the bottom of the lake could further, negatively impact the structural integrity of the dam. The Corps of Engineers has previously and strongly, expressed this concern. If the dam fails, hundreds of thousands of lives below the dam would likely be lost and untold dollars in property values would be tragically destroyed;
- 2) Our drinking water, not just in Highland Village but in many other parts of the Greater Dallas Area risk being contaminated through drilling runoff from the site. Migration of contaminants through our aquifers could also impair significant numbers of public water wells;
- 3) It will ncrease air pollution in our geographic area which, in early 2015, the EPA declared to already be, "severe;"
- 4) Any or all of the preceding or the following occurrences would adversely affect the values of all property owners (us included) near Lake Lewisville;
- 5) Lewisville Lake is a strong recreational area for a variety of people in the Greater Dallas Area. Any or all of the preceding and following occurrences negatively impact this activity;
- 6) The Whooping Crane and the Least Interior Tern (both on the endangered list) are frequent visitors to our lake. They would be further at risk;

- 7) The lifecycle of natural gas drilling has been shown to heighten the effects of climate change (Global Warming). Such drilling includes the clearing of well pads, to the drilling, fracking, storage and combustion. This is a problem to which we don't need to add.

Finally, this proposed lease sale is substantially and procedurally flawed inasmuch as there was no analyses regarding how the impacts of drilling, fracking or wastewater injection could impact the Trinity, Paluxy or Woodbine aquifers relative to this Lake Lewisville parcel. Further, neither the soils nor the geology have been addressed. BLM's offer of this parcel is unlawful by its failure to sufficiently address the above issues as required by the NEPA. I urge you to pull this parcel from inclusion in the April 20, 2016 auction. Please do not put these waters and the health and well-being of those who are at risk as results from this activity.

Sincerely,



Joe and Jo Ellen Hamilton
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Highland Village, TX75077
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cc: Melanie Torres – Director of Constituent Services
Erik With - Local District Chief of Staff
Kelle Strickland – DC Chief of Staff