

Amy Lueders  
Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
P.O. Box 27115  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115  
February 15, 2016

Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale  
Dear Ms. Lueders:

I am filing this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) planned April 20, 2016 oil and gas lease sale and Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NM-040-2015-61-EA, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3.

I formally protest the inclusion of the following parcel, NM- 201603-43, covering a total of 258.9 acres. The proposed parcel is on/adjacent to Lewisville Lake.

I am filing this protest on behalf of myself . My name is Jennifer Howard and I live at 1607 Highland Circle, Little Elm TX 75068 and I can be reached at 214-642-6375. My email is [jlhoward@udallas.edu](mailto:jlhoward@udallas.edu)

I live on the shore of Lake Lewisville and will likely be adversely affected by the leasing of Lake Lewisville land for hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for a number of reasons which I have listed below:

1) Little Elm obtains its drinking water supply from Lake Lewisville and public water wells near the lake. I am worried about the contamination of our drinking water through possible drilling runoff from the site. The possible migration of contaminants through our aquifers could also impair our public water wells.

A 2015 peer-reviewed study by Dr. Zachariah Hildenbrand and others, "A Comprehensive Analysis of Groundwater Quality in the Barnett Shale" gives indications that fracking compounds have been detected in water samples near wells sites in an analysis of more than 500 samples in the Barnett shale. Some of this sampling was done in Denton county

2) I am also concerned about the potential for the venting of "sour gas" near or around ecologically sensitive wetlands areas and residential neighborhoods.

The whooping crane and the least interior tern are on the endangered species list and have been seen on Lewisville Lake (see DFW Urban Wildlife website)

- 3) A 2013 presentation by Anita Branch of the Army Corps of Engineers identified new issues of concern in the relationship to dams and drilling. These issues include induced seismicity (earthquakes), the transmission of fracking fluids outside the target zone via natural faults underground, and the disposal of flowback water raising the potential for ground and surface water contamination.
- 4) In addition to supplying Dallas, Denton and Collin counties with potable water, Lake Lewisville is also home to fishing and recreation, all of which could be negatively impacted by waste runoff from the fracking site.
- 5) The Environmental Assessment for this proposed lease sale is substantially and procedurally flawed.

There was no analysis of how drilling, fracking, or wastewater injection could impact the Woodbine, Trinity or Paluxy aquifers in relation to this parcel. The EA does not address the soils or the geology regarding this Lake Lewisville parcel along with other important issues. Therefore, BLM's offer of this parcel is potentially unlawful as it fails to sufficiently address the above issues as required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Please pull this parcel from the April 20 auction. Do not put my family's water, health, and well-being at risk.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Howard  
1607 Highland Cr.  
Little Elm, TX 75068