

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

February 13, 2016

2016 FEB 18 PM 1:50

SANTA FE, NM

Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale

Dear Ms. Leuders:

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 my family . I am Patricia Zvonar and I live at 2395 Briarhill Blvd., HighlandVillage, TX 75077 and I can be reached at 214-545-2999. My email is pzvonar29@yahoo.com.

I live near Lake Lewisville and am a property owner here, in Highland Village and my water comes from the Lake. Fracking concerns me deeply based on earthquakes, poor water quality and pollution encountered in other local area towns (like Irving) who have experienced these types of issues since fracking has been practiced. I don't believe these negative issues are a coincidence.

The reason I feel I am an affected party by the auction of the 10-year mineral lease on the property is due to the following :

1) Highland Village 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.

2) I am also concerned about the potential for increased seismicity from added drilling in and around Lake Lewisville. The Lewisville dam is currently under repair after a 161-foot long, 23-foot wide slide on an earthen embankment this past spring. Additional drilling or the migration of drilling fluids along existing fault areas below the lake could negatively impact the integrity of the dam's infrastructure.

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 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.

Additionally, the items below also could be worsened if this oil and gas lease is approved. There are already adverse effects to the lake and air quality due to the long-term I-35E expansion project.

AIR POLLUTION – Denton county is designated as “serious” as part of a 10-county nonattainment area for not having healthy air under the federal Clean Air Act. In early 2015, the EPA took public comments regarding elevating the 10-county DFW area to “severe.” Any drilling air emissions will only add to our unhealthy air quality.

In DFW during summer months, the wind primarily blows from southeast to northwest any pollution could impact the Denton airport monitor, which has the worst air pollution readings consistently in our region. My family has increased allergy and lung issues related to poor air quality in our area.

LOCAL ECONOMICS – Small, local businesses who count on Lake Lewisville being a healthy lake will suffer from extra pollution causing poor water quality and potential breach of the dam.

WATER POLLUTION – 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. Help us keep Lake Lewisville healthy by rejecting the oil and gas lease.

SOIL/DAM IMPACTS– 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. The presentation by the Corps further added that erosion of the embankment along existing faults located in the foundation, abutments or outlet works could lead to project failure... and an uncontrolled loss of pool or flood storage.” In other words, a breach in a dam.

WILDLIFE/MIGRATORY BIRDS – 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). Help protect this wildlife instead of aiding its extinction.

CLIMATE CHANGE – The lifecycle of natural gas drilling heightens the effects of climate change. From the clearing of the well pad to drilling, fracking, storage and combustion, we do not need to add to this problem.

- Methane is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide. It is a trigger for the creation of ozone- and is hazardous to human health.

A July 2015 study, "Come Heat and High Water: Climate Risk in the Southeastern U.S." found that Texas will be one of the states most negatively impacted by climate change by mid-century absent any changes. The study forecasted more hot days, heat-related deaths, sea rise along Texas shoreline, and an annual storm damage increases of at least \$650 million due to increased storm related loss and damage along the Texas coast.

Please help protect our community by rejecting the oil and gas lease.

Simmons

Patricia E. Zvonar

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