

May 10, 2016

Kurt Wadzinski  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator, BLM Eastern States  
Northeastern States District Office  
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Milwaukee, WI 53202  
EMAIL: [blm\\_es\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_es_comments@blm.gov)

**Re: NEPA# DOI-BLM-Eastern States-0030-2016-0002-EA  
Comments Regarding the Marietta Unit for the Athens Ranger District EA and Unsigned FONSI for  
Oil and Gas Leasing, Wayne National Forest**

Dear Mr. Wadzinski,

I am a landowner/mineral owner. While I was pleased to learn that the Bureau of Land Management is moving forward with leasing, there were some items in the Environmental Assessment (EA) that I found troubling.

First, I want to make clear that leasing in the Wayne National Forest would, in fact, have a direct impact on my right to develop my private minerals and land. The EA claims that leasing in the forest will not impact development of my minerals. That's simply not true, due to Ohio's unitization laws.

Second, I found the EA to be highly offensive in the "environmental justice" section, page 84. The notion that the federal government can tell us that private citizens are not capable of reading a legal document nor able to determine where a well pad should go on our private property is an outrage. Using this basis because we live in Appalachia is truly disrespectful to the people who live and work here. Further, the BLM has no right to tell private citizens what we can or cannot do on our private land as it relates to proposed activities. The language found on page 84 would imply that the BLM can invoke itself into land use discussions on privately held land. This is unacceptable.

Third, and as the EA points out, the U.S. Forest Service has been acquiring land in Appalachia for years, which means that our counties and schools have received less money as well. Plus, the federal government continues to add land to the WNF, as there are plans for 10,000 acres of private minerals to revert back to the government over time. Holding up leasing of federal minerals in the Marietta Unit is a violation of our personal property rights and continues to create hardships for our region.

Once again, I encourage the BLM to move forward with leasing immediately and also make appropriate changes to the language of the EA, as portions are not reflective of the scope of this matter.

Please accept this letter for consideration of formal public comment. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

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Landowner

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Address

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City, State