



January 27, 2017

Railroad Commission of Texas
Hearings Division
Attention: Docket Services
P.O. Box 12967
Austin, TX 78711-2967

via 1st class mail and email to:
docketservices@rrc.texas.gov

Re: Bluestone Natural Res. II, LLC application for fluid injection or disposal permit in Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Field, Tarrant County, Texas (tracking no. 46045)
Docket no.: 09-0303267

To whom it may concern:

It has come to the attention of the City of Arlington ("City") that Bluestone Natural Res. II, LLC has made a permit application to the Railroad Commission to allow a saltwater disposal well within the City of Fort Worth, but adjacent to Lake Arlington. The City hereby protests the granting of such a permit and requests that the City be placed on the Railroad Commission's interested party list to receive all notices regarding this application and gives notice that it desires to participate in any hearing on this matter.

The City's protest is based upon, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

Lake Arlington holds about 13 billion gallons of water and is an essential resource for the City of Arlington and Tarrant County. Specifically:

- It is the sole source of untreated water for Arlington's Pierce Burch Water Treatment Plant. The plant produces up to 76 million gallons of treated water each day to meet the drinking, hygiene, household and commercial needs of Arlington's more than 380,000 residents.
- Lake Arlington provides terminal water storage integral to Tarrant Regional Water District's system for transporting water from east Texas reservoirs for use in Tarrant County cities. In addition to Arlington, Fort Worth, Mansfield and other smaller communities that purchase treated water from Fort Worth rely on this system for their water.
- Lake Arlington also is the sole source of water for the Trinity River Authority's Tarrant County Water Supply Project water treatment plant. That plant provides treated water to Bedford, Colleyville, Euless, Grapevine and North Richland Hills. The Lake Arlington Master Plan, completed in 2011, estimated that the lake provided drinking water to more than 500,000 North Texas residents.



The loss of this vital water supply by failure of the Lake Arlington Dam would be disastrous to the community.

Arlington's Gas Drilling and Production Ordinance section 7.01 prohibits any drilling within 600 feet of the Lake Arlington reservoir area. The ordinance also prohibits salt water disposal wells inside the City of Arlington and any "salt water disposal lines" under Lake Arlington or within 100 feet of the flowage easement lands around the lake. While the proposed pipeline and well are not within the City, the ordinance reflects the concern that injection wells pose different, more serious, hazards than hydrofracturing or drilling.

The City's concern about these hazards is based upon a number of factors:

- In 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a study of safety implications of drilling, hydrofracturing and extraction on Joe Pool Dam in Grand Prairie (which is of similar construction to Lake Arlington Dam) which noted that "...injection induced earthquakes have occurred in the Barnett shale area..."
- The USACE report further found that injection wells represent a higher level of risk where dams are concerned and recommended a 16,400 ft. stand-off between Joe Pool Dam and any injection well.
- Bluestone's proposed injection well would be about 9,300 feet away from the Lake Arlington Dam, according to estimations by Arlington's Community Development and Planning Department.
- In 2016, the USGS increased their estimated risk for damage-causing earthquakes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to as high as 5 percent in a report that noted the demonstrated effect of injection wells.
- Concerning the USGS risk estimate, the Associated Press reported that nine or more earthquakes of 3 or more on the Richter scale hit the Dallas-Fort Worth area from Nov. 1, 2014 through 2015 and the largest earthquake in North Texas measured 4.0 in May 2015.
- The AP quoted USGS seismologist Justin Rubinstein as saying that there is a scientific consensus "that wastewater disposal does cause earthquakes."

Please copy further communication on this matter to me, Walter "Buzz" Pishkur, Director of Arlington Water Utilities, at Buzz.Pishkur@arlingtontx.gov. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter "Buzz" Pishkur
Director, Arlington Water Utilities