

-----Original Message
From: elizabeth waldc
Sent: Mon 6/19/2006 9:29 AM
To: Silawsky, Donald

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Dear Mr. Silawsky,

We are writing to oppose the use of Leaf River water in the Richton petroleum storage. This practice would create more problems than it solves.

South Mississippi is developing a vigorous ecotourism industry. Eliminating a large input to the Pascagoula River would imperil that pristine ecosystem.

Currently excess water pumping is mining ground water from Mississippi soils. On average over the state our water table drops a foot a year. Your proposed withdrawals would combine with this excess.

Endangered species are protected by federal law. Sturgeon survive in the Pascagoula. Dramatically reducing its flow would put this remnant population of ancient fish at greater risk.

Ecologist Eugene Odom recognized in the 1970's that communities should cherish and protect their water as equal or greater in importance than energy. Renewable energy provides an alternative to petroleum. There is no alternative to clean water.

Please care for our glorious Earth as you make decisions about water.

Sincerely,
Dr. Elizabeth Waldorf