

-----Original Mess
From: Tony Bland |_____
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2006 7:43 AM
To: Silawsky, Donald
Subject: Richton Salt Dome Project

Dear Mr. Silawsky,

I am writing to let you know of my opposition to the proposal to expand the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve in the Richton Salt Domes. I am concerned about the environmental impact of the project.

My overwhelming concern is the impact on the Pascagoula River Basin by diverting the flow of the Leaf River. The Pascagoula, as one of the few remaining natural river systems in the U.S., is a national treasure. I do not want to see it affected by having the flow of one of its main tributaries diverted.

My second main concern is the effect of dumping large quantities of brine directly into the Mississippi Sound and the impact it would have on fish and other seafood.

I am also concerned about the inherent lack of stability of salt domes and the potential for groundwater contamination from oil stored there.

I urge you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely