



State of Louisiana  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF COASTAL RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT

April 28, 2008

Donald Silawsky  
Office of Petroleum Reserves (FE-47)  
U. S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-0301

RE: **C20080137**, Solicitation of Views  
**U. S. Dept. of Energy**  
Direct Federal Action  
Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
(SEIS) and conduct public hearings on the proposed Richton Salt Dome Project,  
Richton Mississippi

Dear Mr. Silawsky:

The above referenced Notice of Intent of the Department of Energy to prepare an SEIS  
has been reviewed by this office and we have the following comments.

We appreciate the opportunity provided to comment on the preparation of the SEIS.  
Such early coordination is highly recommended in the federal Coastal Zone Management  
Act rules and regulations and provides more communication and opportunities to avoid  
potential conflicts between federal activities and coastal programs. There are several  
issues that we feel the DOE should address during the preparation of the SEIS. We note  
that the project is to include a brine disposal pipeline that will discharge into the Gulf of  
Mexico about 11.5 miles south of Singing River Island or at alternative locations.  
Because this discharge could potentially affect marine organisms or salt water  
concentrations in the vicinity of the discharge, we would caution and advise DOE that it  
should fully model this discharge and its effects on marine organisms and salt water  
concentration levels in the plume of brine water discharge alternatives in the SEIS. Other  
issues which DOE should cover in its SEIS include; 1) Impingement/entrainment of  
larvae/juveniles at the alternative raw water intake site in the Mississippi Sound, 2)  
Reduction of freshwater input into the estuary and ultimately the Gulf, whichever river is  
tapped to be the primary source of raw water, and 3) Impacts of the brine plume on  
migratory species that use Horn Island Pass to move from the Gulf of Mexico and the  
Mississippi Sound i.e., larval and post-larval recruitment.

If you have any questions concerning this information request, please contact Brian Marcks of the Consistency Section at (225)342-7939 or 1-800-267-4019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Rives". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" being more prominent than the last name "Rives".

Jim Rives  
Administrator

JR/JH/bgm

cc: Garrett Graves, GOCA  
Dave Frugé, DNR  
Heather Finely, LDWF