

**Fadely, Karen**

**From:** Silawsky, Donald [Donald.Silawsky@hq.doe.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2005 9:44 AM  
**To:** Fadely, Karen  
**Subject:** FW: Draft EIS for Strategic Petroleum Reserve Expansion and Clean Air Act General Conformity Requirements  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

KAREN: I forwarded this message to Alan a few weeks ago, but now that the tracking system is up and running, it should probably be formally logged in.

DON SILAWSKY

**From:** Koss, Theodore  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 14, 2005 11:07 AM  
**To:** Silawsky, Donald  
**Cc:** Wallo, Andrew; Osborne, Carolyn; Mansoor, Yardena  
**Subject:** Draft EIS for Strategic Petroleum Reserve Expansion and Clean Air Act General Conformity Requirements

Mr. Silawsky:

The purpose of this e-mail is to call your attention to the possible need to address in the draft EIS the requirements of the Clean Air Act General Conformity rule for this proposed action. For proposed DOE actions for which conformity may apply, we at EH-41 have been alerting EIS preparers about this issue at the time of the issuance of the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. Briefly, General Conformity prohibits a Federal agency from proceeding with a proposed action in an area not attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, if the action would interfere with State efforts to attain the ambient standards. A conformity review entails estimating annual air emission rates of pollutants of concern and comparing these annual rates with conformity threshold levels, to see if further analysis and possible mitigation of air impacts are needed. EH guidance for conducting conformity reviews in the context of NEPA studies is available at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/tools/guidance/caaguidance.pdf> and <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/oepa/guidance/caa/conformbrf.pdf>. Documentation of the conformity review should be sufficiently detailed to assure a reviewer that a suitable analysis of air emissions of pollutants of concern has been carried out.

My review of the September 1, 2005, NOI (70 FR 52088) indicated that the Bayou Choctaw, Big Hill and Stratton Ridge sites are in nonattainment areas for the 8-hour ozone ambient standard and are subject to conformity. Thus, annual emissions of volatile organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen during construction and operation associated with the proposed action at these sites would need to be estimated and compared with conformity threshold levels in the conformity review.

If you or your staff has questions on the conformity review and requirements, please feel free to contact me.

Ted Koss

10/10/2005

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Department of Energy

Office of Air, Water and Radiation Protection Policy and Guidance (EH-41)



10/10/2005