

Fadely, Karen

From: Silawsky, Donald [Donald.Silawsky@hq.doe.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2005 3:05 PM
To: Fadely, Karen
Subject: FW: FR Doc. 05-17447 Scoping Comments
Importance: High
Attachments: image001.jpg; StratPetResScoping.doc

<<image001.jpg>>

KAREN: SPR EIS <<StratPetResScoping.doc>> scoping comments. Please acknowledge receipt.

Thanx.

DON SILAWSKY

-----Original Message-----

From: Cynthia Sarthou
To: Donald.Silawsky@hq.doe.gov.
Sent: 10/28/2005 2:02 PM
Subject: FR Doc. 05-17447 Scoping Comments
Importance: High

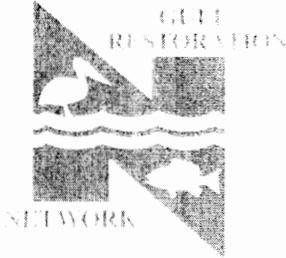
The GRN submits the attached comments regarding scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement: Site Selection for the Expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Cynthia Sarthou
Executive Director
Gulf Restoration Network



www.healthygulf.org

<<image001.jpg>> <<StratPetResScoping.doc>>



United for a Healthy Gulf

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(Delivered via Electronic Mail)

October 28, 2005

Donald Silawsky
Office of Petroleum
Reserves (FE-47)
U.S. Department of
Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
SW., Washington, DC 20585-0301;
(email at Donald.Silawsky@hq.doc.gov.)

Re: FR Doc. 05-17447 Environmental Impact Statement: Site
Selection for the Expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Dear Mr. Silwasky,

The Gulf Restoration Network (GRN) is a diverse coalition of 51 local, regional and national groups committed to uniting and empowering people to protect and restore the resources of the Gulf Region. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess a proposed capacity expansion at three of the four existing Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) storage sites and the development of a new storage site at Clovelly or Chacahoula, Louisiana; Richton, Mississippi; or Stratton Ridge, Texas. The GRN submits the following comments regarding scoping for the EIS.

I. Public Notice and Scoping Hearings

First, the GRN is very troubled by the failure to provide adequate notice of scoping in coastal Mississippi. Although formal notice was published in the federal register, communities in Southern Mississippi and Louisiana have been dealing with the after affects of Hurricane Katrina. Few have had computer access which would allow them access to the federal register, many, if not most, of the public libraries have been destroyed or damaged, and few local newspapers are being published. As a result, it is unlikely that residents of either of these states have received notice of scoping on an issue of importance to their communities. The DOE should re-notice the opportunity for public input into the scoping process when local newspapers and libraries in the affected area are again fully operational.

Second, although we are fully aware of the difficulties created by the destruction wreaked by Hurricane Katrina, we feel it inappropriate to proceed without holding a scoping hearing in coastal Mississippi, particularly Pascagoula, Mississippi. Citizens of this area will be potentially affected by pipeline construction should Richton, Mississippi be chosen as the site for the proposed expansion. They should, therefore, be afforded adequate opportunity for input into the scoping process afforded by a public hearing.

II. Issues for Scoping: The GRN is deeply concerned about the potential environmental impacts associated with expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve at any of the sites currently being considered by the DOE. We believe that the EIS being prepared by the DOE must fully analyze:

1. Any potential impacts of the construction of major surface buildings, structures, and pipelines at each of the existing SPR storage sites and the new storage site being considered for Clovelly and Chacahoula, Louisiana; Richton, Mississippi; or Stratton Ridge, Texas.
2. A full array of alternatives regarding the routing of new or expanded pipelines running to and from each of the existing SPR storage sites and the new storage site being considered for Clovelly or Chacahoula, Louisiana; Richton, Mississippi; or Stratton Ridge, Texas;
3. Any potential impacts on coastal and marine resources of any aspect of the proposed action, including but not limited to the impact on wetlands, oysters, shrimp, and any and all fish species of the disposal of brine in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico associated with expansion the existing SPR storage sites and construction and operation any new storage site being considered for Clovelly or Chacahoula, Louisiana; Richton, Mississippi; or Stratton Ridge, Texas;
4. Any potential impact of expansion of the existing SPR storage sites construction and/or operation of any facility and construction and operation of any new storage site being considered for Clovelly or Chacahoula, Louisiana; Richton, Mississippi; or Stratton Ridge, Texas; on aquifers in the area, including the leaching of salt or other pollutants into those aquifers.
5. Any potential impact on local rivers, streams, or other water bodies associated with any withdrawal of water necessitated by or otherwise associated with the expansion of the existing SPR storage sites construction and/or operation of any facility and construction and operation of any new storage site being considered for Clovelly or Chacahoula, Louisiana; Richton, Mississippi; or Stratton Ridge, Texas;
6. The potential ecosystem impacts of locating, constructing and operating the new storage site being considered for Clovelly and Chacahoula, Louisiana; Richton, Mississippi; or Stratton Ridge, Texas on the coastal environment, including impacts associated with the construction and operation of pipelines related to the operation of each proposed site.
7. The economic impact, both singularly and cumulatively, on local communities, commercial and recreational fishing interests, tourism, and other related economic interests in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, of expansion of the existing SPR storage sites and construction and operation of any new storage site being considered for Clovelly or Chacahoula, Louisiana;

Richton, Mississippi, and Stratton Ridge, Texas;

8. Any potential impacts to essential fish habitat (EFH) and associated fisheries in any area affected by expansion of the existing SPR storage sites and construction and operation of any new storage site being considered for Clovelly or Chacahoula, Louisiana;

9. Any potential impacts on endangered or threatened species in any area affected by expansion of the existing SPR storage sites and construction and operation of any new storage site being considered for Clovelly or Chacahoula, Louisiana, including but not limited to the impact of withdrawal of water from local waterbodies, alteration of habitat, and discharge of water or other substances from the facility, associate pipelines, and the like..

10. Any and all secondary and cumulative impacts of expansion of the SPR, including expansion of the existing SPR storage sites construction and/or operation of any facility and construction and operation of any new storage site. The analysis of secondary and cumulative impacts must include consideration of those impacts associated with pipelines and any and all associated development stimulated by expansion of existing or creation of a new storage site, including but not limited to impacts on wetlands, water quality, water salinity, fish, invertebrates, and air quality.

11. Any potential secondary impacts associated with exploration for, and development of, additional oil and gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico, motivated by or otherwise related to, expansion of the SPR.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia M. Sarthou
Executive Director