



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 13, 2005

Ms. Pamela Breaux
Louisiana Office of Culture
Recreation and Tourism
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Date: 10-13-05

No known archaeological sites or historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.

Pam Breaux: Pam Breaux
State Historic Preservation Officer

Re: Proposed Expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (West Hackberry, Bayou Choctaw, Clovelly and Chacahoula, LA)

Dear Ms. Breaux:

The U.S. Department of Energy is proposing to expand the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to its 1 billion-barrel authorized capacity. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Office of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has determined that this project is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this letter is to request information from the Louisiana Office of Culture, Recreation and Tourism on resources that the project could potentially affect, as well as any permits and approvals required for construction. Four sites being considered for the proposed project in Louisiana are: (1) West Hackberry (Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes), an existing SPR facility that would be expanded under the proposal; (2) Bayou Choctaw (Iberville Parish), an existing SPR facility that would be expanded under the proposal; (3) Clovelly (east of Galliano, LA), which would be a candidate for a new SPR facility; and (4) Chacahoula (Lafourche Parish), which would be a candidate site for a new SPR facility.

Maps are enclosed which show the location of the proposed project sites. Additional attachments include a narrative description of the proposed action and figures of the proposed action from the 1992 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

DOE has initiated preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement with publication of a Notice of Intent (70 FR 52088) on September 1, 2005. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT), enacted on August 8, 2005, requires the Secretary of Energy to select sites necessary to expand the SPR to 1 billion barrel capacity no later than one year after enactment. This requires an extremely fast NEPA review process in order to provide decision makers with information for a Record of Decision (ROD) in early August of 2006.

Information on any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate would also be appreciated. We request that you respond by October 13, 2005, so that we may schedule meetings, site visits or surveys, conduct any necessary follow-up activities, and

