

Fadely, Karen

From: Donald Silawsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2005 8:18 PM
To: Fadely, Karen
Subject: FW: MMS Comments on the Proposed Expansion of the StrategicPetroleum Reserve

KAREN: SPR EIS comments. Be sure to check this against the e-mail message from Dec. 16 and delete that.

DON SILAWSKY

----- Forwarded Message

From: "Christopher, Joseph" <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, 19 Dec 2005 10:12:16 -0500
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: MMS Comments on the Proposed Expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Dear Mr. Silawsky,

[On December 16, we inadvertently sent you an email message with comments on this project. Please consider the following to be our official comments.]

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region has reviewed the proposal by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and is providing the following scoping comments. The proposed action includes expansion of three existing SPR sites at West Hackberry and Bayou Choctaw in Louisiana, and Big Hill in Texas, and a new site would be selected from Chacahoula and Clovelly in Louisiana, Richton and Bruinsburg in Mississippi, and Stratton Ridge, Texas. The DOE would develop new caverns in salt domes to store additional crude oil. The proposed action also indicates that during the development of new cavern in the salt domes, the displaced brine would either be disposed on-site or carried by a pipeline and discharged through a diffuser in the Gulf of Mexico. The MMS has no objection to this proposed action. However, if DOE decides to allow discharge of brine in the Gulf, we would appreciate an opportunity to evaluate the specifics of this disposal method for potential conflicts with existing oil and gas infrastructure.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me.

Thanks,

12/20/2005

Joseph A. Christopher

Regional Supervisor

Office of Leasing and Environment

Minerals Management Service

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

New Orleans, LA 70123



----- End of Forwarded Message