

DETERMINATION TO PREPARE SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Project: *Site Selection for the Expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve* (DOE/EIS-0385, December 2006).

Location: Richton, Mississippi, and other locations of associated structures

Changes to the Proposal Analyzed in the EIS: Relocation of the raw water intake, brine disposal, pipeline routes, and oil terminal.

Background: The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT, P.L. 109-58), enacted on August 8, 2005, required the Department of Energy (DOE) to expand the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) from its current 727 million-barrel capacity to 1 billion barrels. In order to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the expansion project, DOE prepared DOE/EIS-0385.

In the Record of Decision published in the *Federal Register* on February 22, 2007, DOE announced its selection of Richton, Mississippi, as the location of a new SPR facility as part of the expansion project. The site was selected for its large and undeveloped salt dome, enhanced oil distribution capabilities, and inland location having potentially reduced hurricane impacts.

Since the selection of Richton was made, DOE has engaged in further consultations with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other governmental entities. As a result, DOE is considering the need to relocate the proposed raw water intake structure on the Leaf River, the proposed brine disposal pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico, and proposed oil terminal in Pascagoula to further minimize potential environmental impacts and accommodate local economic development goals. Relocating these facilities could require revisions to pipelines and pipeline routes analyzed in DOE/EIS-0385.

Determination: Section 1021.314 of the DOE NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR Part 1021) requires a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to be prepared "...if there are substantial changes to the proposal or significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns..." analyzed in the original EIS. It is my determination that the potential relocations of the raw water intake, brine disposal, and oil terminal associated with the Richton, Mississippi, SPR expansion facility meet the criteria for preparing a SEIS. Based on the analysis in the SEIS, DOE may prepare a mitigation action plan to assure reduction of any impacts. DOE will publish a Notice of Intent to prepare the SEIS in the *Federal Register*, and a Record of Decision to document DOE's decision on the proposal.

This determination has been made in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA, and DOE NEPA regulations.



James A. Slutz
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Fossil Energy

1-23-08

Date

Reviewed by:



Mark J. Matarrese
NEPA Compliance Officer
Office of Fossil Energy

1/17/08

Date