George County Board of Supervisors

SUE COCHRAN, DISTRICT THREE
LARRY HAVARD, DISTRICT FOUR
ROBERT P. SHEPARD, ATTORNEY
CAMMIE BRANNAN BYRD, CLERK OF BOARD

LIT EUBANKS, DISTRICT ONE
KELLY WRIGHT, DISTRICT TWO
HENRY COCHRAN, DISTRICT FIVE
CONNIE SHOCKLEY, PURCHASE CLERK

355 Cox Street
LUCEDALE, MISSISSIPPI 39452
601-947-7506

HAND-DELIVERED **
April 9, 2008

U.S. Department of Energy

RE: Richton Salt Dome Project (Scoping for the SPR SEIS)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of George County, Mississippi, and to be included in the record of the public hearing which you are holding today, please find attached a copy of a resolution which was adopted unanimously by the Board of Supervisors of George County, MS, on March 25, 2008, and which opposes the Richton Salt Dome Project.

The Board would appreciate your consideration of their objections to this project.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Shepard
Attorney for the Board of Supervisors
of George County, Mississippi

*** presented at a public hearing held in George County on April 9, 2008, at the George County Senior Citizens Building between the hours of 2:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.

RESOLUTION

OPPOSING RICHTON SALT DOME PROJECT

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy is considering a plan to pump 50 million gallons of water per day from the Pascagoula River in George County in order to use the water to wash out a salt dome in Perry County, MS, and then plans to return the used water via a pipeline through George County and Jackson County to a location South of Horn Island; and

WHEREAS, this plan was developed without public input from the residents of George and Jackson Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors are concerned about the permanent damage that the Richton Salt Dome Project will cause to the Pascagoula River and to all of South Mississippi, including the Pascagoula River swamp and the Mississippi Sound; and

WHEREAS, the Pascagoula River is the last pristine river in the United States of America and cannot survive a withdrawal of 50 million gallons of water per day; and

WHEREAS, certain public officials have touted this project as an economic development project, but the Board of Supervisors are of the opinion that the economic benefit to South Mississippi will be minimal, while the adverse effects from the project have the potential to devastate the environment and to destroy the future economic development of South Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, other public officials have touted this project as a national security issue, but the Board of Supervisors are of the opinion that there are better and quicker methods to protect the national security and not destroy the environment; and

WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the salt could be mined by hand and, thereby, have the salt available for use where the salt is needed or, alternatively, that

the 50 million gallons of water could be removed from and returned to the Mississippi River, with no adverse effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors believe that the project as it has been announced will be severely detrimental to George County and should be changed, if not stopped altogether;

***NOW THEREFORE*, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF GEORGE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:**

1. That the findings of fact recited in the preamble hereof are hereby found and declared to be true and correct, to the best of the Board's knowledge and belief.

2. That the Board of Supervisors of George County, Mississippi, hereby go on record opposing the Richton Salt Dome Project insofar as it provides for the removal of 50 million gallons of water per day from the Pascagoula River in George County; the pumping of salt water through George County; the pumping of salt water through Jackson County; and the depositing of the salt water at a location within 25 miles of the Jackson County Coast.

3. That the Board of Supervisors of George County, Mississippi, hereby request that Congressman Taylor, Senator Cochran, Senator Wicker, Governor Barbour, and all officers and employees of the U.S. Department of Energy support the change of the Richton Salt Dome Project from the announced plan to a plan which will not involve removing water from the Pascagoula River; piping salt water through George and Jackson Counties; and depositing salt water in the waters within 25 miles of the Jackson County coast line.

4. That this resolution shall be made a part of the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors of George County, Mississippi; that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the officials identified herein and to other interested officials and individuals; and that a copy of this resolution shall be presented for inclusion in the record of the public hearing to be held on April 9, 2008, in George County on the Salt Dome Project.

ON MOTION made by Supervisor Larry Havard and seconded by Supervisor Henry Cochran, to adopt the foregoing resolution, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

Fred Croom	District One	Voted Yea
Kelly Wright	District Two	Voted Yea
Sue Cochran	District Three	Voted Absent
Larry A. Havard	District Four	Voted Yea
W. Henry Cochran	District Five	Voted Yea

The motion having received the affirmative vote of all of the members of the Board present, the President of the Board declared the motion carried unanimously, and the resolution adopted this the 25th day of March, A.D. 2008.

CAMMIE BRANNAN BYRD NOTARY PUBLIC GEORGE COUNTY, MISS.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)
ATTEST:

Cammie Brannan Byrd
CHANCERY CLERK