S0035

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

October 27, 2005

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585-1000

RE: Request for Consideration of Additional Site in Mississippi for Expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Dear Secretary Bodman:

The Department of Energy (DOE) has been statutorily tasked to select additional sites for expanding the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). According to the recently-enacted Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT), Public Law No. 109-58, the Secretary is required to fill the SPR to one billion barrels as "expeditiously as practicable." *See id.*, Section 301. As you know, the SPR today consists of four underground storage facilities located on or very near the coasts of Texas and Louisiana with the capacity to hold 727 million barrels of oil. Therefore, additional sites will be needed to expand the capacity of the SPR in order to meet the one billion barrel requirement.

To accomplish this task, the EPACT also required the DOE to complete a proceeding by August 8, 2006, to select additional sites to expand the SPR to the authorized level. *See id.*, Section 303. DOE was instructed in this language to consider previously studied sites and to "first consider and give preference to the five sites which the Secretary previously assessed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, DOE/EIS--0165-D." *Id.* In addition, the Secretary was given discretion to "select other sites as proposed by a State where a site has been previously studied by the Secretary to meet the full authorized volume of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve." *Id.*

One site considered in the 1992 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, DOE/EIS-0165-D, was located in Richton, Mississippi. I know the DOE is first considering and giving preference to the Richton Salt Dome, as demonstrated by the recent public scoping meeting held in Jackson, Mississippi, on October 18, 2005. I support your efforts and continued commitment to closely examining this site.

In addition, and pursuant to the language from Section 303 of the EPACT, I would submit on behalf of the State of Mississippi an additional site for your consideration to fulfill the express

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purpose of any expansion of the SPR. This site is known as the Bruinsburg Salt Dome and is located in Claiborne County, Mississippi. I believe this dome represents another attractive opportunity - in addition to the Richton Salt Dome - for the cost-efficient, environmentally-friendly, and timely expansion of the SPR.

I appreciate your consideration of the Bruinsburg Salt Dome second to the Richton Salt Dome to accomplish the goal of expanding the SPR. If you require any additional information, please contact John Rounsaville, [redacted] on my staff.

Sincerely,

Haley Barbour

HB/jwr