

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
SITE SELECTION FOR STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE EXPANSION
CLAIBORNE COUNTY MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005
7:00 P.M.**

**Mr. Allen Burks
Claiborne County Board of Supervisors**

Good evening, my name is Allen Burks. I'm a member of the board of supervisors here in this county. I would also like to thank everyone who is associated with this project and considering Claiborne County to be the site.

I believe that this is an excellent opportunity for the nation as a whole. One of the crises that we have in the United States and, I would say, worldwide, is energy. And most governments today are trying to figure out how to solve that problem.

I think Claiborne County is really fortunate to be involved with this project. I will tell you that the site that's being considered, you know, I was born and raised just down the road from there. I didn't recognize that that potential existed until this project began to develop.

So I want to say on behalf and as a member of the board of supervisors that we really support this project. And we're going to take some proactive steps to demonstrate our support for this project by doing something similar to what we did for Grand Gulf in our support for that project by putting together a resolution and doing everything that we can do to let you guys know that we really want this project to be here. Southwest Mississippi does need this. It is an economically depressed area, and projects of this magnitude will most definitely help us.

I appreciate the representative Mr. Chuck Middleton for standing up in support of this. The governor, he was absolutely correct in saying that the State of Mississippi is fortunate in having the caliber of elected officials that we have on a federal level. And we should all submit letters and e-mails and comments to those officials to let them know that we support this project and that we're willing to work with them to do whatever we can to make this venture happen. So, again, thank you for coming.

I'll also say that part of my background -- if you want to talk about the safety and will this really work -- I am physicist; I am a chemist and a bunch of other things that I do also. So it's a safe project. I don't think that there will be any adverse environmental impact because we are looking at the right place to put this thing. So I'm looking forward to this becoming a reality. I'm a very optimistic person.

So, again, what we can do is to get onboard and let our elected officials know on a state level and on a federal level that we support this project.

Thank you.