

GREAT NEWS FOR SOUTH MISSISSIPPI ! The Department of Energy has heard your voices and has agreed to take another look at how they intend to develop the Richton salt dome strategic petroleum reserve. **The D.O.E. will be holding scoping meetings in Jackson, George and Greene Counties next week.** The time and locations are shown below. The purpose of the meetings is for the D.O.E. to hear your concerns, questions and suggested changes to their current plans for the project. They intend to look at the possibility of changing the location for the raw water intake, the location and method of brine disposal and the location of the 50 acre tank farm in Pascagoula.

**This is your opportunity to let the D.O.E. know how you feel about the project.** If you think taking 50 million gallons of water per day for 5 years from the Pascagoula River, turning it into a salt slurry, then pumping that into the Gulf of Mexico is a good idea, then say so, BUT if you don't, then be sure your voice is heard. Please try to attend at least one of the meetings. You can be most effective if you bring your comments, questions or alternatives in a written form to the meeting AND send those same thoughts to the D.O.E.

Your voices have made a lot of progress so far. Attendance at these meetings may be the most important step in the process, as one of the options that the D.O.E. is considering is a "No Action Alternative". If this project must go forward, let's make sure that it's done right and does not wreck both the environment and economy of south Mississippi.

The meetings details are:

Jackson County: B.E. Mac McGinty Civic Center, Thurs. 4/10/08, 2:00 – 8:00

George County: Senior Center, Wed. 4/09/08, 2:00- 8:00

Greene County: High School, Tues. 4/08/08, 2:00- 8:00

Our hope is that the largest number of people will arrive around 6:00. Our strength is in numbers and the number looks smaller if spread out over 6 hours. According to the D.O.E., the format of the meetings is that they will have representatives that will provide information and answer questions. They will have a stenographer if you wish to have your comment or questions recorded for the record. (Written comments and questions will also be entered into the record – mail a second copy to be sure.) At the Jackson County meeting only, there will be a public speaking opportunity for anyone who wishes to provide public comments. That should start at 7:00.

Written comments should be sent to:

Donald Silawsky

Office of Petroleum Reserves

U.S. Department of Energy

1000 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20585-0301

Or email Mr. Silawsky at [donald.silawsky@hq.doe.gov](mailto:donald.silawsky@hq.doe.gov)

Envelopes or email subjects should read: **Scoping for the SPR SEIS**  
**They must be sent prior to April 29, 2008.**

Attached is the letter that the Gulf Conservation Coalition will be sending. Please feel free to use any of the thoughts or questions that you agree with in the letter to help develop your letters. If the same question gets asked 50 times, the D.O.E. will see that it's a critical question. Please do your part so that you can feel that you helped PRESERVE OUR PARADISE.

Please send this email to anyone that may be interested. Large numbers of people is what will make this process successful.

Eric Richards  
Gulf Conservation Coalition  
Pascagoula, MS