

Notice to residents of Jackson County and surrounding areas

The US Dept of Energy is moving forward on a plan that will have a devastating impact on the Pascagoula River and our coastal waters.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The US Dept of Energy plans to hollow out a massive salt dome near Richton, MS. This salt dome will be filled with 160 million barrels of oil as an addition to our nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Sounds fine in general. It's the "devil in the details" that is the cause for alarm. This project will impact our Pascagoula River, its estuaries and the Mississippi coastal waters.

The Specific Plan

1. 50 million gallons of water per day will be drawn from our Pascagoula River for 5 years. This fresh water will then be used to dissolve salt inside the dome, using a technique called solution mining.
2. The resulting toxic salt slurry, an ultra-high salinity brine (263 parts salt per thousand parts water) will then be pumped and discharged near the Pascagoula Ship Channel (normally 30 parts salt per thousand parts water!). Specifically, beginning near the Horn Island Pass.

How This Impacts Us

1. Removal of that much water (50 million gal/day) from the Pascagoula River, in itself, will have a dramatic, if not catastrophic, effect on the health of the river and its inhabitants. Any time there is a reduction in the river levels, nature will try to maintain its level by pulling from the salty gulf waters thus raising salinity levels.
2. Salt water intrusion will cause destruction of key wildlife habitats, its inhabitants and marshlands. Louisiana is seeing this firsthand.
3. The use of fresh water for this project seems to be quite illogical when neighboring Georgia is planning to spend millions of dollars to turn Atlantic salt water into fresh water to relieve their severe water shortage.
4. The disposal of the salt slurry near our shores will create a dead zone due to its extreme saline content. The anticipated extent of this dead zone is unclear but expected to be miles wide. What we do know is the intensity and magnitude of the brine blending with the coastal waters being carried by tide and currents will be dramatic.
5. With over 200 miles of pipeline, it crosses 63 creeks, streams and rivers. The DOE actually anticipates a certain number of pipeline spills due to the corrosive nature of the brine thus putting fresh water supplies for communities of south Mississippi in jeopardy.

If we do nothing: This project will move forward.

If we act: We can stop or modify the project ...and...
PRESERVE OUR PARADISE.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO

THIS IS NOT A "PROPOSED" PROJECT.

IT IS ACTUALLY IN THE WORKS

AND

IT WILL HAPPEN

IF WE DO NOT TAKE A STAND.

HOW YOU CAN EASILY MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

CALL OR EMAIL THE FOLLOWING:

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR 601-359-3150
governor@governor.state.ms.us

Sen. Thad Cochran 228-867-9710
senator@cochran.senate.gov

SEN. ROGER WICKER..... 202-224-6253
Roger@wickerforcongress.com

REP. GENE TAYLOR 872-7950

REP. TAYLOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL CONTACT:

[\(chris.lagarde@mail.house.gov\)](mailto:chris.lagarde@mail.house.gov)

REP. CHIP PICKERING 202-225-5031

Online form at www.house.gov/pickering/contact

CALL SOUND OFF:

THE MISSISSIPPI PRESS..... 866-801-5619

THE SUN HERALD 896-2123 OR 888-228-3328

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Gulf Conservation Coalition

Together we can.....Preserve Our Paradise!

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