

# SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT: SITE SELECTION FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

## Opportunities for Public Involvement



**Comments** – All comments must be received or postmarked by:  
**April 29, 2008.**

Envelopes and the subject line of faxes or e-mails should be labeled: "Scoping for the SPR EIS"

**Send to:**

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**For More Information**

*SPR Project Questions*  
Please see the "U.S. Petroleum Reserves" page of the Fossil Energy Website at:  
<http://www.fossil.energy.gov>

*DOE NEPA Process Questions*  
Please see the "NEPA" page of the Environment, Safety, and Health Website at:  
<http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa>

**Overview**

After extensive studies, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selected Richton, MS, as the location of a new U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) site. DOE is considering changing the proposed location of off-site facilities associated with the Richton SPR site. As DOE begins an extensive study of the potential impacts of such changes, DOE welcomes your input.

**What is the SPR?**

The SPR is the nation's emergency stockpile of petroleum, established by Congress, to protect America against potential disruptions in our country's critical oil supplies. The SPR currently holds over 700 million barrels of oil in underground storage facilities in Texas and Louisiana.

**Why and how has DOE proposed to expand the SPR?**

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed DOE to select sites necessary to expand the SPR storage capacity of 727 million barrels to one billion barrels. DOE prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for selecting these sites (DOE/EIS-0385, December 2006) and selected Richton, MS, as the location of a new SPR facility as part of the expansion project. This site was selected for its large and undeveloped salt dome, enhanced oil distribution capabilities, and inland location that is less vulnerable than Gulf Coast locations to the damaging effects of hurricanes.

**What has changed since DOE selected the Richton site?**

As the result of further consultations with Federal and Mississippi state agencies, DOE is now considering alternative locations from those addressed in the EIS for certain facilities associated with the Richton site.

- Instead of withdrawing water from the Leaf River at New Augusta, MS, with a secondary water source being the Gulf of Mexico, DOE is considering a location on the Pascagoula River near Merrill, MS, with greater water availability. For the oil terminal and tank farm, Bayou Casotte Harbor may be an alternative to the former Naval Station Pascagoula on Singing River Island.
- The brine discharge pipeline may be re-routed to follow an existing underwater right-of-way and terminate about 1.2 miles west of the location identified in the EIS.
- The pipeline and powerline rights-of-way associated with the proposed facility locations may change.

DOE also will consider other alternative locations for these facilities.

**Will DOE analyze the potential environmental impacts of these changes?**

Yes. Before deciding how to modify the proposal analyzed in the initial EIS, DOE will prepare a Supplemental EIS. This detailed study will analyze the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating facilities associated with the Richton site in proposed alternative locations.

**What issues will the Supplemental EIS analyze?**

Your input will help determine that all significant issues are addressed. The following is a preliminary list of environmental resource areas that may be affected by alternative proposed locations.

- Local and regional air quality
- Water resources including the quality and quantity of local and regional marine, freshwater, and groundwater affected by water withdrawals or discharges
- Ecological resources including threatened and endangered species, wetlands, and essential fish habitat
- Land use
- Local geology and soils
- Public health and safety including potential incidental spills and releases
- Socioeconomic impacts from potential influx of workers and increased demand for local services
- Cultural resources
- Environmental justice

Additions to or deletions from this list may occur as a result of public comments.

**How can I provide my comments to DOE and learn more?**

DOE invites interested agencies, organizations, Native American tribes, and members of the public to submit written or oral comments concerning the content and scope of the Supplemental EIS, including the alternatives to be considered and the issues and impacts to be addressed. Contact information and sources of additional information are provided on the left-hand side of this page. The locations and times of upcoming public scoping meetings are provided on the back of this brochure.

**Will I have other opportunities for input?**

DOE will hold public meetings and solicit oral and written comments following the completion of a draft Supplemental EIS.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2008**  
 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Greene County High School  
 4336 High School Road  
 Leakesville, MS 39451-9801  
 (601) 394-5290

**Wednesday, April 9, 2008**  
 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 George County Senior Center  
 7102 Hwy 198 E  
 Lucedale, MS 39452  
 (601) 947-2162

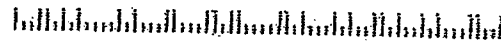
**Thursday, April 10, 2008**  
 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 B.E. Mac McGinty Civic Center  
 Jackson County Fairgrounds  
 2902 Shortcut Rd.  
 Pascagoula, MS 39567  
 (228) 762-6043

**Office of Petroleum Reserves (FE-47)**  
**U.S. Department of Energy**  
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**Washington, DC 20585-0301**



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**Proposed and Alternative  
 Facility Locations  
 Associated with Richton  
 SPR Storage Site**

