

SENATE BILL NO. 585

BY SENATOR MILLS

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 30:4(N), relative to solution-mined cavern permits; to require public notice
3 for certain solution-mined cavern permits in Iberia Parish; to require a public hearing
4 for permits to drill, expand, operate, or convert certain solution-mined caverns; to
5 provide terms, conditions, and requirements; and to provide for related matters.

6 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 30:4(N) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §4. Jurisdiction, duties, and powers of the assistant secretary; rules and regulations

10 * * *

11 N.(1) No permit to drill or operate a new solution-mined cavern, or
12 expand or convert an existing solution-mined cavern in Iberia Parish may be
13 issued until after a public hearing is held no earlier than August 15, 2015, on the
14 application for the permit. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and
15 regulations to provide for such public hearings and shall fix the date, time, and
16 place therefor. The operator or owner, prior to such a public hearing, shall give
17 public notice on three separate days within a period of thirty days prior to the
18 public hearing, with at least five days between each publication notice, both in
19 the official state journal and in the official journal of the parish in which the
20 well is to be located.

21 (2) At least thirty days prior to such public hearing on a permit to
22 expand or convert an existing solution-mined cavern or to drill and operate a
23 new solution-mined cavern in Iberia Parish, the permit applicant shall submit
24 a report to the commissioner of conservation, to Save Lake Peigneur, Inc., and
25 to the governing authority of Iberia Parish. The report shall provide a baseline
26 analysis of groundwater levels and salt content in the nearby groundwater wells
27 that can be accessed for such analysis; a plan to monitor groundwater levels and

1 salt water content for the duration of the activity for the creation of cavern
 2 storage should a permit be granted; a geologic analysis by a qualified third
 3 party geologist that examines the integrity of the salt dome; and the results of
 4 an analysis of testing that attempts to determine the source and composition of
 5 intermittent foaming or bubbling appearing in Lake Peigneur.

6 (3) No permit to expand or convert an existing solution-mined cavern
 7 or to drill and operate a new solution-mined cavern in Iberia Parish shall be
 8 issued prior to January 31, 2016.

9 (4) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to any activity or
 10 operation related to safety, maintenance, inspection, testing or regulatory
 11 compliance, when necessary, or when required by regulators.

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____