



LOUISIANA SENATE

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SENATOR MILLS SEEKS TO PROTECT CITIZENS FROM POTENTIAL SINKHOLE DISASTER

SENATE BILL 200 MOVES TO THE FULL SENATE FOR CONSIDERATION

District 22 State Senator Fred Mills (R-Parks) is working to protect citizens of Lake Peigneur from a potential sinkhole disaster, like the one that's plagued the citizens of Bayou Corne for nine months. His Senate Bill 200 requires that an environmental impact study be done before AGL Resources is granted a permit to expand a salt cavern under the lake to store natural gas. The measure requires the study to especially focus on the cavern's proximity to an aquifer.

Lake Peigneur, a few miles west of New Iberia, faced disaster in 1980 when a drilling rig pushed through the top of a salt mine under the lake and opened a hole that consumed the entire body of water, quickly transforming freshwater into saltwater and creating a sinkhole. In Bayou Corne, it has been suggested that a cavern was placed too close to the edge of the salt dome and external pressure caused a collapse, filling the sinkhole with millions of cubic yards of earth.

In recent months, gas bubbles, similar to what appeared in Bayou Corne before the sinkhole, have been spotted in Lake Peigneur. Sen. Mills says that he is doing everything he can to ensure that this type of catastrophe does not happen again.

"We need to protect residents in the area from any potential threat this could cause," said Sen. Mills. "We've seen what's happened to the folks in Bayou Corne and we saw what happened to the residents of Lake Peigneur 33 years ago. It is so very important that we do everything we can to prevent these disasters from recurring and I appreciate the committee's support of this measure."

SB 200 was approved by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and now moves to the full Senate for consideration.



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