



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 7, 2024

Christine Asiata Rodriguez
Manager, State Clearinghouse
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability: Environmental Assessment for the U.S. Department of Energy's Proposed Federal Loan to EnergySource Minerals LLC for Project ATLiS in Calipatria, California

Dear State Clearinghouse Manager:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Loan Programs Office (LPO), prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider the environmental impacts of its decision whether to provide a Federal loan to EnergySource Minerals LLC (ESM) to support the construction of a commercial lithium production plant in Calipatria, Imperial County, California (Project ATLiS or Project).

The decision to prepare an EA was made in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and DOE's implementing procedures for compliance with NEPA (10 CFR Part 1021).

LPO provides loans and loan guarantees under four programs: Clean Energy Financing Program (Title 17), Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan (ATVM) Program, Tribal Energy Financing, and Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure. The proposed loan to ESM is under the ATVM program, the primary goal of which is to finance projects and facilities located in the United States that manufacture eligible light-duty vehicles and qualifying components.

The Project will increase domestic production of lithium, as well as other commercially viable substances, for automotive applications like electric vehicle batteries that ultimately reduce air emissions such as ozone precursors, particulate matter, and greenhouse gases.

Brief Project Description and Location Information

The Project includes the construction of a new lithium from geothermal brine manufacturing facility at 477 West McDonald Road, Calipatria, California 92233 (Imperial County). The project site consists of approximately 79 acres adjacent to the western and southern boundaries of the existing John L. Featherstone Geothermal Plant (also known as Hudson Ranch I or HR1). The HR1 plant will supply feedstock brine for the Project. The facility will consist of approximately 730,000 square feet of processing, operations, and warehouse buildings. Project ATLiS is planned to operate for 30 to 40 years.

Findings

As an interested party and in accordance with DOE NEPA regulations, the draft EA with the proposed/draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is available for public review at the following link: [EA-2279: Draft Environmental Assessment and FONSI – ATLiS Project, Imperial County, California | Department of Energy](#). If you have trouble accessing the link or need a hardcopy, please contact LPO via email at LPO_Environmental@hq.doe.gov or phone (240) 687-7266.

California code Section 65962.5 is not applicable to DOE's proposed action.

Comment Period Information

The NEPA public comment period is open November 6-December 5, 2024. Please review and provide any comments you may have **by Thursday, December 5, 2024 (comments must be received by this date)**.

No public meetings are scheduled.

To submit comments, please email: LPO_Environmental@hq.doe.gov Please include "ATLiS EA" in the subject line.

If you would like to submit comments by U.S. mail, please call (240) 687-7266 or email LPO_Environmental@hq.doe.gov for more information.

Sincerely,

Molly R. Cobbs
NEPA Document Manager
Loan Programs Office