

June 24, 2022

Mr. Jeremy O'Neil
Mayor
City of Valdez
P.O. Box 307
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear Mr. O'Neil,

Under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with authorizing Alaska LNG Project LLC (Alaska LNG) to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) as part of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation's (AGDC) proposed Alaska LNG Project (Project) in Docket No. 14-96-LNG.¹ Through the NEPA process, DOE evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Project; invites public participation; and informs current and future agency planning and decision making related to the Project. This letter serves as notification that the Draft SEIS for the proposed Alaska LNG Project will be available online at DOE's website <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doeeis-0512-s1-supplemental-environmental-impact-statement-alaska-lng-project> for public review and comment beginning on July 1, 2022, and ending on August 15, 2022.

DOE is in the process of rehearing DOE/Office of Fossil Energy (FE) Order No. 3643-A, issued in August 2020 (Alaska LNG Order), which authorized exports of LNG from the proposed Alaska LNG Project to countries that do not have a free trade agreement (FTA) requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas, and with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy (non-FTA countries). DOE issued the Rehearing Order on April 15, 2021. Subsequently, on July 2, 2021, DOE published in the *Federal Register* a "Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska LNG Project" (86 Fed. Reg. 35,280). The Draft SEIS supplements the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Alaska LNG Project published by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on March 6, 2020, and adopted by DOE on March 16, 2020 (DOE/EIS-0512).

The Draft SEIS, in accordance with NEPA, has been prepared in furtherance of DOE's Rehearing Order to evaluate potential upstream and downstream environmental impacts of exporting LNG from the proposed Project to non-FTA countries, including evaluation consistent with two recent Executive Orders: E.O. 13990, *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*, and E.O. 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*. Specifically, the Draft SEIS will inform DOE's consideration of potential environmental impacts associated with natural gas production on the North Slope of Alaska. In addition, the Draft SEIS will evaluate the global nature of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with Alaska LNG's export of LNG to markets in Asia (the markets targeted for export from Alaska) from a life cycle perspective.

In the Notice of Schedule for the SEIS, issued on August 24, 2021, DOE stated that, based on the findings from the SEIS (including the associated public process), DOE intends to issue an order under section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act in which DOE presents its findings and

¹ For all DOE documents referenced herein, please see the Alaska LNG docket at:
<https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/alaska-lng-project-llc-fe-dkt-no-14-96-lng>.

conclusions. DOE stated that it may decide to reaffirm, modify, or set aside the Alaska LNG Order in whole or in part.

Comments on the Draft SEIS

DOE invites Federal, state, tribal, and local entities; non-profit organizations; businesses; interested parties; and the general public to review the Draft SEIS and to submit comments on the Draft SEIS during the 45-day public comment period.

The comment period will officially open when EPA publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register* on July 1, 2022 and will end on August 15, 2022. DOE will post the Draft SEIS to the following website: <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doeeis-0512-s1-supplemental-environmental-impact-statement-alaska-lng-project>. Comments on the Draft SEIS may be submitted online at <https://www.regulations.gov/> by entering "Alaska LNG" into the search field and following the prompts, or by mail addressed to:

U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory,
ATTN: Mark Lusk, NEPA Compliance Officer
3610 Collins Ferry Rd
Morgantown, WV 26505

Comments by mail should be identified as intended for the Draft SEIS for the Alaska LNG Project. Comments received or postmarked by August 15, 2022 will be considered in preparing the Final SEIS.

Virtual Public Meeting

DOE invites you to the virtual public meeting, currently scheduled for Wednesday July 20, 2022 from 4 to 6 PM AKDT (8 to 10 PM EDT). The virtual public meeting will begin with a presentation on the NEPA process and the proposed Project. Following the presentation, there will be a moderated session during which members of the public can provide verbal comments on the Draft SEIS. All comments provided during the virtual public meeting will be transcribed and become part of the formal record.

You may join the public meeting from your personal computer or compatible mobile device through the Zoom app, clicking 'Join a Meeting', and entering the following information - Meeting ID: 944 3452 6764. The Zoom app may also be launched from the Zoom website at <http://zoom.us/join>, entering the Meeting ID, and following the prompts. For members of the public who do not have access to an internet connection, they may join the meeting audio by dialing the following number: 301-715-8592. When prompted, enter the following information: Meeting ID – 944 3452 6764. Then press the pound (#) key.

Written comments on the Draft SEIS may also be submitted during the public comment period as indicated above. All comments, whether verbal or written, will be considered by DOE as the SEIS is finalized. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mark Lusk via email to mark.lusk@NETL.DOE.gov. We look forward to your feedback and participation in the NEPA process.

Sincerely,



Mark Lusk, NEPA Compliance Officer