

April 3, 2020

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the “Large Pilot Testing of Linde/BASF Advanced Post-Combustion CO₂ Capture Technology at a Coal-Fired Power Plant” project (Large Pilot Testing Project) (DOE/EA- 2128). The draft EA can also be found on DOE’s National Energy Technology Laboratory website at: <https://netl.doe.gov/node/6939> and DOE's NEPA website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-environmental-assessments>.

Some recipients of this letter typically would have received only a hard copy of the Draft EA, however due to constraints implemented to respond to the coronavirus outbreak, the National Energy Technology Laboratory is providing a sharable electronic copy as an attachment to this message. If you desire and have not received a hard copy of the Draft EA, please submit your request, including the physical address where it should be sent using the email address information below.

DOE prepared this Draft EA in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR Part 1021). It evaluates the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of DOE providing cost-shared funding to a project team led by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) and The Linde Group/BASF Corporation (Linde/BASF) to evaluate the potential effects of the construction and subsequent 2-year operation of the Large Pilot Testing Project for research purposes at City, Water, Light, and Power, an operating municipal utility plant in Springfield, Illinois. The proposed Large Pilot Testing Project would demonstrate the scalability and commercial potential of the Linde/BASF post-combustion CO₂ capture technology using U.S. domestic coal, resulting in mitigation of the risks associated with adopting the technology at full scale and creating a pathway for commercial deployment in the U.S.

This Draft EA analyzes the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of DOE' s Proposed Action of providing cost-shared funding of the Large Pilot Testing Project and of the No-Action Alternative. The Draft EA evaluated the resource areas DOE commonly addresses in EAs and identified no significant adverse environmental impacts from DOE' s Proposed Action.

A notice of availability will be published in the Springfield, Illinois State Journal-Register on April 5, 2020 to announce the beginning of the 30-day public review and comment period. The Draft EA will be available for review-at the Lincoln Library, 326 S. 7th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, and the Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building, 300 S. Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701. In the event that libraries are closed, the document will be available upon reopening.

Comments should be marked "Large Pilot Testing Carbon Capture Draft EA Comments" and sent to:

Pierina N. Fayish
NEPA Compliance Officer
Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory
P.O. Box 10940
Pittsburgh PA 15236
412-386-5428
Pierina.Fayish@netl.doe.gov

Individual names and addresses, including email addresses, received as part of the comment documents normally are considered part of the public record. Persons wishing to withhold names, addresses, or other identifying information from the public record must state this request prominently at the beginning of their comments. DOE will honor this request to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be included in the public record and open to public inspection in their entirety.

The public comment period ends on May 5, 2020. DOE will consider late submissions to the extent practicable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pierina N. Fayish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pierina N. Fayish