

April 13, 2024

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites comments on the revised Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed North Dakota CarbonSAFE: Project Tundra (DOE/EA-D2197). The revised Draft EA can also be found on DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory website at <https://netl.doe.gov/node/6939> and DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-environmental-assessments>.

DOE released the Draft EA for public review and comment after publication of the Notice of Availability in the Bismarck Tribune on August 19, 2023. DOE received many comments on the Draft EA. Due to the increased level of public interest and number of comments received, DOE prepared a Comment Response document, included as Appendix K, and is reissuing the Draft EA. An additional 30-day comment period will allow interested parties to review the comments and responses, as well as any edits to the Draft EA. Changes to the text of the Draft EA are shown with a line down the left side for ease of comparison.

DOE prepared this revised Draft EA in accordance with NEPA, as amended ([Public Law 91-190] [As Amended Through P.L. 118-5, Enacted June 3, 2023]), the Council on Environmental Quality's 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-sharing financial assistance to Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) for the project.

Minnkota's proposed project would include the design, construction, and operation of a carbon capture system at an existing lignite-fired coal power plant, the Milton R. Young (MRY) facility, in Oliver County, North Dakota. If built, Project Tundra would be the world's largest post-combustion carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture and geologic storage project, and would capture and permanently store CO₂ emissions from the existing MRY facility. The Project would be sized for capture and saline formation geologic storage of an average of 4.0 million metric tons per year (MMT/yr) of CO₂. The CO₂ would be compressed, piped via a new approximately 0.5-mile-long CO₂ pipeline to the storage complex, and injected into deep geologic reservoirs. Construction would begin in 2024 and would be complete by 2028.

This revised Draft EA analyzes the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of DOE's Proposed Action of providing cost-sharing funding of Project Tundra 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 Bismarck Tribune on April 13, 2024 to announce the beginning of the 30-day public review and comment period. The revised Draft EA will be available for review at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library located at 515 N 5th St, Bismarck, ND 58501, telephone (701) 355-1480; and the North Dakota State Library, located at 604 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505, telephone (701) 328-4622.


Comments should be marked "Project Tundra" and sent to:

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Individual names and addresses, including email addresses, received as part of the comment documents typically 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 of 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 13, 2024. DOE will consider late submissions to the extent practicable.

Sincerely,



Pierina N. Fayish