



January 26, 2011

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) *Draft Environmental Assessment for the Battleground Energy Recovery Project in Deer Park, Harris County, Texas (DOE/EA-1769)* (Draft EA). DOE's proposed action is to provide \$1.94 million in cost-shared funding to Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) for the Battleground Energy Recovery Project. The proposed project has been selected by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) to advance research and demonstrate energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. The proposed project would involve the production of 8 megawatt (MW) of electricity from high pressure steam generated by capturing heat that is currently lost at the Clean Harbors Deer Park facility.

DOE prepared this Draft EA to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of providing cost-sharing funding to HARC to install a specifically-designed heat recovery boiler on the existing kiln afterburner of an incineration unit at the CDHP facility. This boiler would use heat from the incinerator flue gases to generate high pressure superheated steam. The majority of the steam, however, would be piped to a new steam turbine-generator (STG). The STG would be installed in a new building adjacent to the CHDP facility to produce electric power. A cooling tower would be installed adjacent to the new building in the northwest corner of the facility. The 8 MW of electricity generated by the STG would be used by the CHDP facility to offset purchased power; any excess power generated would be transmitted to the electrical grid.

This Draft EA evaluates eight resource areas and identifies no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project. Construction and installation activities associated with the project would occur entirely within private industrial property. The project would require a construction permit and a minor amendment to the facility's air emissions operating permit. Additionally, modification to the facility's existing hazardous waste permit would be necessary.

DOE invites interested parties to comment on this Draft EA during a 30-day public comment period that begins on Date February 3 and ends March 4, 2011. Submit comments to:

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Envelopes and the subject line of e-mails and faxes should be labeled “Draft Battleground Energy Recovery EA Comments.” Comments received after close of the comment period will be considered to the extent practicable.

Individual names and addresses, including e-mail addresses, received as part of the comment documents normally are considered part of the public record. Persons wishing to withhold their name, address, or other identifying information from the public record must state this request prominently at the beginning of the comment document; 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.

Thank you for your interest in this Draft EA. For further information on the Draft EA or to request additional copies, please contact me as noted above. The Draft EA is also available on DOE’s National Energy Technology Laboratory web site at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/publications/others/nepa/ea.html>.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. J. Gwilliam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "G".

William Gwilliam
NEPA Document Manager