December 3, 2024

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for the MP Assets Corporation – Project Stellar (DOE/EA-2272D)

Dear Reader,

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) - National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) invites comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) for the MP Assets Corporation – Project Stellar. The Draft EA can also be found on DOE's NETL EA website at https://netl.doe.gov/node/6939.

The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR Part 1021). DOE prepared the Draft EA to analyze the potential environmental, cultural, and social impacts of partially funding the construction and operation of a coated lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery separator facility for Microporous, LLC (referred to as Microporous, a subsidiary of MP Assets Corporation).

The operations at the proposed Microporous facility include the development of a coated Li-ion battery separator plant at Lots 1 and 2 (south of McGuff Creek) of the Southern Virigina Megasite in Danville, VA for Li-ion batteries integral to electric vehicle (EV) supply chains. This project would secure 600 million m^2 per year of domestic separator manufacturing capacity, strengthening the United States market. Microporous would install twenty aqueous coating lines for both ceramic (alumina, boehmite) and polymer (PVdF, PMMA) coating, complete with slurry mixing and slitting equipment. Within the DOE grant's 3-year performance period, Microporous would expect to create approximately 282 permanent jobs based on a three-year performance period of Phase I, and would ensure that at least 85% of full-time employees are from local Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) by the completion of the project. To achieve its purpose, the plant would consist of manufacturing buildings, an administrative building, a utility building, and storage silos.

A notice of availability has been published in the Danville Register & Bee newspaper on December 3rd, December 5th, and December 7th, 2024, and the Chatham Star-Tribune on December 4th, 2024 to announce the availability of this Draft EA for public review and comment. The 30-day public comment period is from December 3rd, 2024 through January 3rd, 2025. A hard copy is also available for review at the Ruby B. Archie Public Library at 511 Patton Street, Danville, VA 24541.

Comments will be accepted on the Draft EA through close of business on January 3, 2025. All comments received during the public comment period will be addressed. Comments

received after the end of the comment period will be addressed to the extent practicable. Comments should be marked "Microporous Draft EA Comments" and should include your name, address, and organization (if applicable). Individual names and addresses, including email addresses, received as part of the public comment period 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 submitted 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.

Comments should be sent to Stephen Witmer via email (stephen.witmer@netl.doe.gov) or letter addressed to:

Stephen Witmer
U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
626 Cochran Mill Road
M/S 921-227
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

To request a hard copy of the Draft EA, please submit your request (including the physical address where it should be sent) using the contact information above. For additional information, please contact Stephen Witmer using the contact information above, or at 412-386-7589.

Sincerely,

Stephen Witmer

Stephen Witmer
NEPA Compliance Officer