

January 15, 2025

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) proposes to provide cost-shared funding to Albemarle US, Inc. (Albemarle) for its planned King Mountain Mineral Processing Plant in Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina. The Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) can also be found on DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) website at <https://netl.doe.gov/node/6939>

or the DOE website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-environmental-assessments>

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 new facility which would allow the processing of approximately 8,000 tons per day (2.7 million tons per annum) of spodumene ore resulting in 1,150-1,200 tons per day (~350,000 tons per annum) of battery chemical grade concentrate grading 5.5% – 6% Li₂O (enough lithium to support the manufacturing of 750,000 electric vehicles per year in the U.S. market).

The purpose and need for DOE action, pursuant to the Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains and in collaboration with the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program and the funding opportunity under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): Lithium Materials Processing and Lithium Manufacturing, is to accelerate the development of a concentrator facility (also referred to as a "mineral processing plant"). Through a grant awarded to Albemarle, DOE proposes to partially fund the design, construction, and start of operations for a mineral processing plant that would produce approximately 420,000 metric tons of spodumene concentrate annually.

A Notice of Availability will be published in the Gastonia Gaston Gazette on January 17, 2025, to announce the beginning of a 30-day public review and comment period. As stated in the notice, comments should be marked "Albemarle Draft EA Comments" and sent to:

Mr. Harry Taylor
U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
3610 Collins Ferry Road
Morgantown, WV 26505
Email: harry.taylor@netl.doe.gov
Telephone: 304.285.5091

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 February 16, 2025. DOE will consider late submissions to the extent practicable. To request a hard copy of the Draft EA, please submit your request along with the physical address using the contact information above. For additional information, please contact me using my contact information, or call me at 304.285.5091.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Taylor', is positioned above the typed name.

Harry E. Taylor, P.E.
NEPA Compliance Officer
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