



May 2, 2013

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Charles Carbon Capture and Sequestration Project* (DOE/EIS-0464D). This document was prepared in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA) and applicable implementing regulations.

This draft environmental impact statement (EIS) addresses DOE's proposed action, which is to provide approximately \$261 million in cost-shared American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to Leucadia Energy, LLC (Leucadia), to support the demonstration of industrial carbon capture and sequestration (CCS).

The Lake Charles CCS Project would involve the capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the Lake Charles Clean Energy (LCCE) Gasification Plant, a petroleum coke gasification plant to be constructed in Calcasieu Parish, adjacent to the Port of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Approximately 4.6 million tons per year of CO<sub>2</sub> generated by the gasification process would be captured, compressed, and delivered via a new connecting pipeline to the existing Green Pipeline for use in existing, commercial enhanced oil recovery (EOR) operations in a portion of the West Hastings oil field in Brazoria County, Texas. The project includes a research monitoring, verification, and accounting (MVA) program aimed at providing an accurate accounting of approximately 1 million tons per year of CO<sub>2</sub> stored in a portion of the West Hastings oil field through the existing EOR operations. The research MVA activities would supplement on-going monitoring activities.

Although DOE funds would only apply to the CCS Project, which consists of the carbon capture unit, CO<sub>2</sub> compression and related equipment, a new CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline approximately 11 miles in length connecting the plant to the existing Green Pipeline, and the research MVA program, DOE determined that the LCCE Gasification Plant is a connected action in accordance with NEPA regulations, and its impacts are analyzed in the draft EIS.

DOE invites interested parties to comment on this draft EIS during the 45-day comment period that will begin when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes a notice of availability in the *Federal Register*. During this public comment period, DOE will convene a public hearing which will include an opportunity for members of the public to provide oral and written comments for the record. More detailed information, including the date and location of the public hearing will be published separately in the *Federal Register* and announced in local newspapers. You are welcome to attend.

Individuals may request time to speak at the public hearing or submit comments on the draft EIS by contacting:

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Individual names and addresses (including e-mail addresses) provided as part of the comment documents on this draft EIS normally are part of the public record. DOE plans to reproduce comment documents in their entirety in the final EIS. Those wishing to have their names, addresses, or other identifying information withheld from the published comment documents must request this prominently at the beginning of their comment document. DOE will honor the request to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and 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.

DOE will consider all relevant comments received during the comment period in the final EIS. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be included to the extent practicable. DOE expects to issue the final EIS in 2013 and will issue its record of decision no sooner than 30 days after the EPA publishes its notice of availability of the final EIS in the *Federal Register*.

For further information on the draft EIS for the Lake Charles CCS Project, or to request additional copies, please contact Pierina N. Fayish, using the contact information listed above. The draft EIS will also be available on the internet at:

<http://www.netl.doe.gov/publications/others/nepa/index.html>; or <http://energy.gov/nepa/>.

Sincerely,



Pierina N. Fayish  
NEPA Document Manager, NETL

Enclosure