Energy Infrastructure and
Critical Mineral and Material Projects

COMMON INITIAL INVESTMENT SCREENING APPLICATION

Loan and Equity Investment User Guide

A Guide for Navigating the Loan and Equity Investment Process for Energy and Critical Mineral Projects

USER GUIDE
Version 1.0

Energy Infrastructure and Critical Mineral and Material Projects
COMMON INVESTMENT INITIAL SCREENING APPLICATION LOANS AND EQUITY INVESTMENTS USER GUIDE

This guide provides instructions and clarifications for completing the Energy Infrastructure and Critical Mineral and Material Projects Common Investment Initial Screening Application webform for equity investments and loans. Please review each section carefully to ensure your submission is complete and accurate.

Please note that there is **no "save" option** –you must complete the form in its entirety and click submit to complete the process – you will receive an email confirmation. The approximate time to complete is 20 minutes. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

SECTION 1: DISCLOSURES

This section provides information about disclosures on the confidentiality of the submitted information and the purpose of the submission of information via the Common Investment Initial Screening Application.

Confidentiality

All information submitted via the Common Investment Initial Screening Application that constitutes trade secrets, confidential commercial information, or proprietary data shall be handled in accordance with the law, including, without limitation, the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. §1905[, and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552]. The Trade Secrets Act prohibits Federal employees and other individuals with access to such information by virtue of their official duties from disclosing it to any unauthorized person. Violators of the Trade Secrets Act may be subject to criminal penalties, including fines and imprisonment. For more information, please see 18 USC 1905. [FOIA allows the public to request access to records controlled or held by any Federal agency. FOIA exempts from disclosure trade secrets as well as commercial or financial information that is obtained from a person that is either privileged or confidential. For more information, please see Title 32 Subtitle B Chapter XVI Part 1662 §1662.21.]

I consent*

Purpose

Submission of information via the Common Investment Initial Screening Application shall not be deemed to create, constitute, or imply any obligation, duty, or commitment on the part of DOE or any other Federal Entity to initiate communications, enter into negotiations, extend an offer to, or enter into any agreement or other relationship with the applicant. DOE, or any other Federal Entity, expressly reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to take no action in respect of the materials submitted via the Common Investment Initial Screening Application.

I acknowledge*

SECTION 2: APPLICANT DESCRIPTION

This section requests information about the legal entity applying for the project.

- ***2.1 Legal Name:** Enter the full, legally registered name of the applicant entity. This should match official registration documents.
- ***2.2 Type:** Select the legal structure of your organization from the dropdown list. If your entity type is not listed, select "Other" and specify in the "Other (Please specify)" field that will appear.
- ***2.3 Applicant Address:** Provide the complete physical address of the applicant's primary place of business.
    - **Country:** Select the country where the applicant's primary business is registered.
    - **Street address:** Enter the primary street address.
    - **Street address line 2:** Use this field for additional address details such as suite, floor, or building number.
    - **City:** Enter the city of the applicant's primary business.
    - **State:** Select the state or province of the applicant's primary business from the dropdown list.
    - **Zip code:** Enter the postal code of the applicant's primary business.

- ***2.4 Project Location:** Enter the zip code for the primary physical location of the critical mineral project. If the project spans multiple zip codes, provide the zip code for the principal site of operations. If the project location is outside of the United States, select the checkbox.

- ***2.5 Authorized Representative/POC:** Provide the contact information for the individual authorized to represent the applicant and serve as the primary point of contact for this application.

    - **Name:** Enter the full name of the authorized representative.

    - **Title:** Enter the official professional title of the authorized representative.

    - **Email:** Provide the official email address of the authorized representative.

    - **Phone:** Provide the direct phone number for the authorized representative.

- ***2.6 Key Partner(s):**

- **Key Partner Application:** Select one or more relevant federal key partners to which you are submitting this information.

SECTION 3: PROJECT INFORMATION

This section focuses on the specifics of the project and its output.

- ***3.1 Short Description:** Provide a concise overview of the project. Include key details such as the primary geographic location, the specific critical mineral(s) involved, the current stage of project development (e.g., exploration, feasibility, construction, operation), and its primary objective. (Example: "Located in [State/Region], this project aims to develop a new primary source of lithium from hard-rock deposits, currently in the pre-feasibility stage, to support domestic battery supply chains.")

- ***3.2 What is the total financing need for the project?** State the total estimated capital required to bring the project to commercial operation in U.S. Dollars.

- ***3.3 Products and Quantity:** List all critical mineral products and co-products expected to be produced by the project. For each product, specify the estimated annual production quantity (e.g., metric tons, kilograms) and the expected purity or grade.

- **3.4 What is the envisioned financing structure and what is the status of current financing discussions?** Describe the proposed mix of debt, equity, and other financing sources. Detail the progress of negotiations or commitments with potential funders.

- **3.5 Describe the debt or equity that has been raised for the investment:** Provide specific details on any capital already secured, including the amount, source, and type (e.g., bank loan, private equity, venture capital).

- **3.6 Who are the existing shareholders and what is the track record of these equity investors?** Identify all current equity holders and briefly describe their experience and history in similar projects or industries.

- **3.7 What is the expected timeline for financial close and project development?** Provide a projected schedule from the anticipated financial close date through key project milestones, including construction commencement, commissioning, and commercial production.

- ***3.8 Critical Timing - Are there any critical timing considerations?** Indicate whether there are external deadlines, regulatory mandates, or market-driven timelines that significantly impact the project's schedule. If "Yes," provide an explanation in the field below.

- **3.9 What percentage of U.S. demand would your minerals project represent?** Estimate the proportion of current or projected U.S. domestic demand for the critical mineral(s) that your project is expected to meet upon full production.

SECTION 4: TECHNICAL

- **4.1 Have all relevant government concessions, licenses, and permits been granted?** Indicate whether all necessary authorizations from local, state, and federal authorities have been obtained. If "No," explain the status of outstanding licenses and permits in the field below.

- **4.2 Has a definitive/bankable feasibility study been drafted by an independent third-party?** Indicate if a comprehensive, independent feasibility study, suitable for financing decisions, has been completed.

- **4.3 What technologies or processes are being used for the project and what are their track records at other sites?** Describe the specific mining, beneficiation, and processing technologies proposed for the project. Provide evidence of their successful application and performance in other projects, especially concerning critical minerals.

- **4.4 What is the status of the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract and other operational contracts?** Detail the progress of securing agreements for engineering, procurement, and construction services. Also, describe the status of other essential contracts such as those for power supply, water, or specialized operations.

- **4.5 Has a recent environmental social impact assessment (ESIA) for the investment been drafted by a qualified third-party in accordance with International Finance Corporation Performance Standards?** Indicate if a recent ESIA adhering to IFC Performance Standards or equivalent international best practices has been conducted by an independent firm.

- ***4.6 Dependencies:**
  - **Is the project reliant on the development of supporting infrastructure (rail, electricity, water, port, etc.) to build or operate the project and to get product to market?** Indicate if the project's success is contingent on new or upgraded external infrastructure. If "Yes," describe these dependencies and their current status or development plans in the field below.

SECTION 5: MARKET

- **5.1 Who are the customers for the product or service provided by the project?** Identify the anticipated end-users or purchasers of your critical mineral products and their respective industries (e.g., battery manufacturers, defense contractors, specialized alloy producers).

- **5.2 What portion of the company's customers serve foreign adversary countries and/or their market segment?** (Foreign adversary countries as defined by 15 CFR 791.2 and 15 USC 9901) Quantify the percentage of your customer base that either operates in China or primarily serves the Chinese market for the critical mineral product.

- **5.3 Where does this project fall in the cost curve compared to its competitors?** Provide an assessment of your project's expected operating costs relative to other producers of the same critical mineral globally. Indicate whether it is expected to be a low-cost, mid-cost, or high-cost producer.

- **5.4 Does the investment have preliminary or contracted offtake/supply contracts?** Indicate whether you have documented agreements for the sale of your critical mineral products. If "Yes," briefly describe the nature and terms of these agreements in the field below.

- **5.5 Are there any risks to the development/timeline of those offtake contracts?** If you have agreements, indicate if there are any current or potential challenges that could jeopardize their execution or timing. If "Yes," provide an explanation.

- **5.6 Are all agreements required for implementing the project in place?** Confirm if all necessary contracts for the project's construction, operation, and product sales are finalized and executed.

- **5.7 What are the potential substitutes for this product today and in the next 5-10 years?** Discuss alternative materials or technologies that could reduce demand for the subject products, both currently and in the foreseeable future.

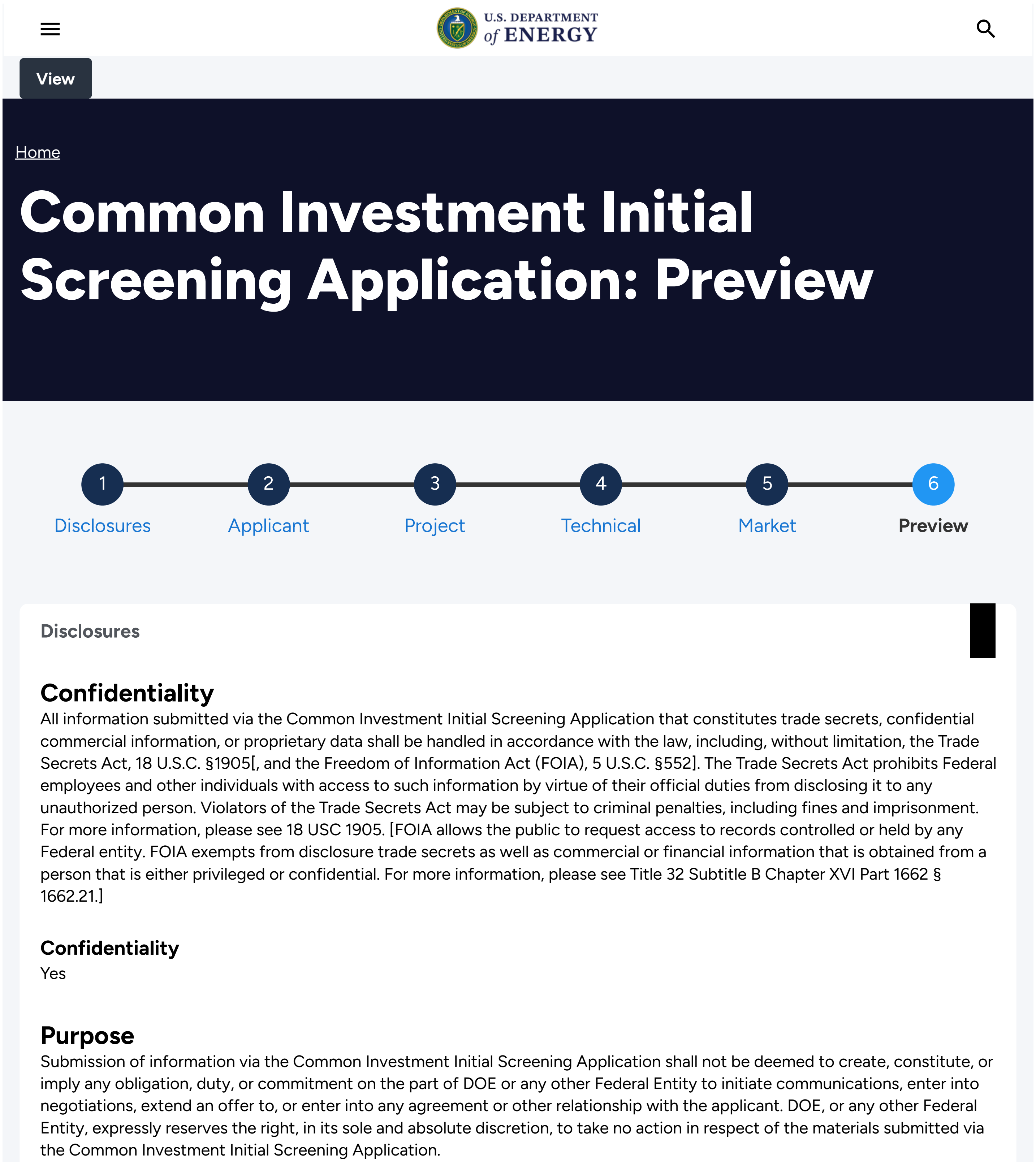
Capability Statement

- Please click here if you wish to submit a capability statement (Optional)

- If yes, insert a link to your capability statement here, or copy/paste your capability statement into the box on the webform. Future option will be available to upload a file on the webform.

SECTION 6: PREVIEW

The Preview screen lets you review your application before submitting.



View

Home

Common Investment Initial Screening Application: Preview

1 Disclosures — 2 Applicant — 3 Project — 4 Technical — 5 Market — 6 **Preview**

Disclosures [redacted]

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For more information, visit:
www.energy.gov/EICMM