Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3305

August 6, 2008

DOE/EA 1620

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED BURBANK HYDROGEN FUELING STATION PROJECT, BURBANK, CALIFORNIA

AGENCY: Department of Energy, Golden Field Office

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), in coordination with the City of Burbank, California, conducted a joint Environmental Assessment (EA)/Initial Study (IS)/Negative Declaration (ND), that analyzed the potential impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of an updated hydrogen fueling station, located at 124 S. Lake Street in the City of Burbank, California, in Los Angeles County (the specific address for the project site is 145 West Verdugo). All discussion, analysis and findings related to the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed Hydrogen fueling Station are contained in the Final EA. The Final EA/IS/ND is hereby incorporated by reference.

Project proponents include Chrysler LLC, BP America Inc and the City of Burbank. Chrysler LLC has a cooperative agreement in place with DOE. This agreement (Award DE-FC36-04GO14285) is a part of DOE's "Hydrogen to the Highways" program and will provide funding for the construction and operation of the project. The project is proposed by the City of Burbank, with design and construction being provided by BP America Inc, who is a sub-recipient to Chrysler LLC.

The proposed Burbank hydrogen fueling station will involve the removal and replacement of the currently existing hydrogen fueling station equipment in order to utilize updated technology and meet a limited increase in demand for hydrogen fuel. The upgraded fueling station would add a steam methane reformer (SMR) hydrogen generator (to replace the existing electrolyzer unit), a hydrogen storage system, vehicle dispensing apparatus for both 350 bar and 700 bar, and necessary associated equipment. The upgraded station would be capable of storing and dispensing approximately 108 kg/day of hydrogen, and would consist of five primary modules: 1)

108 kg/day SMR Hydrogen Generator and low pressure surge vessel; 2) 350 bar (5,000 psig) Compression system; 3) Gaseous buffer storage (~240 kg); 4) 700 bar (10,000 psig) Booster Compressor; 5) Automated Dispenser / Cooling System. The hydrogen generation, compression, storage and dispensing systems will be monitored to assure no gas leaks or fires, through the use of safety features that have been engineered into the project design. The proposed Hydrogen Fueling Station is designed to be fully automated and planned for 24/7 operation with minimal attention. The hydrogen produced would be for use in privately and publicly owned fuel cell vehicles and hydrogen-internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. Vehicle operators using the station for refueling would also be trained in the Emergency Response, and Safety and Dispenser Operation prior to being allowed to access the site.

In accordance with applicable regulations and policies, DOE sent scoping letters to potentially interested local, State and Federal agencies, including the State Historic Preservation Office. The scoping letters described the Proposed Action and requested assistance in identifying potential issues that could be evaluated in the EA. DOE also sent scoping letters to other potentially interested agencies, organizations, and individuals announcing the availability of the Draft EA for public comment. Additionally, DOE mailed a scoping notice out to adjacent contiguous property owners and posted the notice on the DOE Golden Field Office reading room website. In response to the scoping notice, DOE received no public comments or comments from individuals or organizations raising any specific objections or concerns about the proposed action. The environmental document was also duly noticed to adjacent contiguous property owners, interested parties as identified by the City of Burbank, and was posted on the DOE Golden Field Office reading room website. During the public review period for the draft document, DOE received only one comment from an individual who did not raise any specific objections about the proposed action but wanted to be sure the effects on air quality were thoroughly addressed in the assessment.

DETERMINATION: DOE determines that providing funding to support the construction and initial operation of the proposed Hydrogen Fueling Station in Los Angeles County, California, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required and DOE is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

All discussions and findings related to the project site and the Proposed Action are contained within the Final EA. Copies of the Final EA are available at the following locations:

DOE Golden Field Office Website:
http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/

DOE Golden Field Office Public Reading Room Website:
http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/Reading_Room.aspx

City of Burbank Planning Division
333 East Olive Avenue
Burbank, California 91502
Burbank Planning Website:
http://www.burbankca.org/planning/envirodocs.shtml

For further information of the DOE NEPA process contact:

Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance
U. S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue. S. W
Washington, DC 20585
(202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756

Issued in Golden, Colorado this 11th day of August, 2008.

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Manager