

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

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ALASKA LNG PROJECT LLC

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DOCKET NO. 14-96-LNG

NOTICE OF AMENDED SCHEDULE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

## I. BACKGROUND

On June 28, 2021, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy (now the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management<sup>1</sup>) issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska LNG Project (NOI).<sup>2</sup> DOE published the NOI in the *Federal Register* on July 2, 2021.<sup>3</sup> As set forth in the NOI, DOE is preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the Alaska environmental study proceeding (DOE/EIS-0512-S1), consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).<sup>4</sup> The NOI describes two Alaska-specific studies that together comprise the SEIS: (i) an upstream analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with natural gas production on the North Slope of Alaska, and (ii) a life cycle analysis (LCA) that will calculate the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exported from the proposed Alaska LNG Project (Project), taking into account unique issues relating to production, pipeline transportation, and liquefaction in Alaska, among other considerations.<sup>5</sup> DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) is conducting both studies.

DOE has explained that, based on the findings from the SEIS—including the associated public process—DOE may decide to modify, set aside, or affirm the Alaska LNG Order (Order

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<sup>1</sup> On July 4, 2021, DOE's Office of Fossil Energy (FE) became the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Dep't of Energy, Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska LNG Project, Docket No. 14-96-LNG (June 28, 2021) (pre-publication version).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Dep't of Energy, Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska LNG Project, 86 Fed. Reg. 35,280 (July 2, 2021), *available at*: [https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/2021-14188\\_FE\\_NOI%20Alaska%20LNG.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/2021-14188_FE_NOI%20Alaska%20LNG.pdf) [hereinafter NOI].

<sup>4</sup> *See id.* For more information about this proceeding and DOE's rationale for conducting the SEIS, see *Alaska LNG Project LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 3643-B, Docket 14-96-LNG, Order on Rehearing (Apr. 15, 2021), *available at*: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/ord3643b.pdf> [hereinafter Order on Rehearing].

<sup>5</sup> *See* NOI, 86 Fed. Reg. at 35,281 (describing studies).

No. 3643-A),<sup>6</sup> in whole or in part.<sup>7</sup>

On August 24, 2021, DOE issued a Notice of Schedule for the SEIS,<sup>8</sup> identifying the following schedule for key milestones in the process:

Notice of Availability of Draft SEIS	May 2, 2022
Notice of Availability of Final SEIS	September 15, 2022
Final Order and NEPA Record of Decision	December 14, 2022

DOE stated that, if any changes to these dates became necessary, DOE would provide additional notice.<sup>9</sup>

## II. CHANGES TO SEIS SCHEDULE

NETL's work on the SEIS has progressed over the last several months. Recently, DOE determined that it was necessary for NETL to conduct additional modeling on an issue central to both studies in the SEIS—the options associated with managing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) produced with, and removed from, the natural gas supplying the proposed Alaska LNG Project on the North Slope of Alaska. NETL's analysis will determine the range of potential environmental and production impacts associated with the different carbon management options. NETL will use this analysis in assessing the technical viability of producing natural gas to support the Project, as well as any secondary effects to North Slope oil production.

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<sup>6</sup> *Alaska LNG Project LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 3643-A, Docket 14-96-LNG, Final Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (Aug. 20, 2020), available at: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2020/08/f77/ord3643a.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> See Order on Rehearing at 15 (citing 15 U.S.C. § 717r(a)); see also *id.* at 18. DOE notes that Sierra Club's legal challenge to the Alaska LNG Order in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is currently being held in abeyance. See *Sierra Club v. U.S. Dep't of Energy*, No. 20-1503, Order (D.C. Cir. June 30, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> *Alaska LNG Project LLC*, Docket 14-96-LNG, Notice of Schedule for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Aug. 24, 2021), available at: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/Alaska%20LNG%20-%20Notice%20of%20Schedule%20for%20SEIS.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> See *id.* at 3.

DOE has determined that this additional technical analysis will extend the original SEIS schedule by approximately 60 days. Therefore, DOE is providing notice of an amended SEIS schedule. DOE's amended schedule for key milestones in this process are as follows:

<b>Notice of Availability of Draft SEIS</b>	<b>July 1, 2022</b>
<b>Notice of Availability of Final SEIS</b>	<b>November 14, 2022</b>
<b>Final Order and NEPA Record of Decision</b>	<b>February 13, 2023</b>

DOE does not anticipate additional changes to this schedule. However, if any changes to the amended dates become necessary, DOE will provide as much notice as possible.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on February 25, 2022.

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Amy R. Sweeney  
Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis and Engagement  
Office of Resource Sustainability