

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

ALASKA LNG PROJECT LLC

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DOCKET NO. 14-96-LNG

SECOND NOTICE OF AMENDED SCHEDULE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

OCTOBER 28, 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 Management¹) issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska LNG Project (NOI).² DOE published the NOI in the *Federal Register* on July 2, 2021.³ 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).⁴ 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) calculating 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.⁵ 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

¹ On July 4, 2021, DOE’s Office of Fossil Energy (FE) became the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM).

² 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).

³ 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), https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/2021-14188_FE_NOI%20Alaska%20LNG.pdf [hereinafter NOI].

⁴ *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 No. 14-96-LNG, Order on Rehearing (Apr. 15, 2021), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/ord3643b.pdf> [hereinafter Order on Rehearing].

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

No. 3643-A),⁶ in whole or in part.⁷

On August 24, 2021, DOE issued a Notice of Schedule for the SEIS,⁸ 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

Subsequently, on February 25, 2022, DOE issued a Notice of Amended Schedule for the SEIS.⁹ DOE explained that, although NETL's work on the SEIS had progressed over several months, it was necessary for NETL to conduct additional modeling on an issue central to both studies in the SEIS.¹⁰ On that basis, DOE extended the original SEIS schedule by approximately 60 days, as follows:

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

DOE stated that, if any changes to these amended dates became necessary, DOE would provide as much notice as possible.¹¹

⁶ *Alaska LNG Project LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 3643-A, Docket No. 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), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2020/08/f77/ord3643a.pdf>.

⁷ 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).

⁸ *Alaska LNG Project LLC*, Docket No. 14-96-LNG, Notice of Schedule for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Aug. 24, 2021), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/Alaska%20LNG%20-%20Notice%20of%20Schedule%20for%20SEIS.pdf>.

⁹ *Alaska LNG Project LLC*, Docket No. 14-96-LNG, Notice of Amended Schedule for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Feb. 25, 2022), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/Alaska%20LNG%20-%20Notice%20of%20Amended%20Schedule%20for%20SEIS.pdf>.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 3-4.

¹¹ See *id.* at 4.

On June 24, 2022, DOE issued the Notice of Availability for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska LNG Project.¹² DOE published the Notice in the *Federal Register* on June 29, 2022.¹³ The Notice established a 45-day public comment period on the draft SEIS, which began on July 1, 2022, and ended on August 15, 2022.¹⁴

II. CHANGES TO SEIS SCHEDULE

DOE received more than 200 public comments on the draft SEIS.¹⁵ Due to both the complexity of the comments and the range of issues addressed by the commenters, it has been necessary for DOE and NETL to consider additional technical analysis. Accordingly, DOE is providing notice of a second amended SEIS schedule.

DOE has determined that it will need an additional 60 days to complete the technical review and the development of responses for the final SEIS. To minimize disruption to the schedule, however, DOE is extending the date to publish the final order and NEPA Record of Decision by only 45 days. DOE's amended schedule is as follows:

Notice of Availability of Final SEIS	January 13, 2023
Final Order and NEPA Record of Decision	March 30, 2023

DOE does not anticipate additional changes to this schedule. However, if any changes to the

¹² U.S. Dep't of Energy, Notice of Availability for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska LNG Project, Docket No. 14-96-LNG (June 24, 2022) (pre-publication version).

¹³ U.S. Dep't of Energy, Notice of Availability for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska LNG Project, 87 Fed. Reg. 38,730 (June 29, 2022), https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/2022-13869_FE_NOA_Alaska%20LNg%20Project.pdf.

¹⁴ *Id.* DOE also held a virtual public meeting on the draft SEIS on July 20, 2022.

¹⁵ See <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/DOE-HQ-2022-0019/comments>.

amended dates become necessary, DOE will provide as much notice as possible.

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