

December 5, 2024

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) proposes to provide cost-shared funding to ICL Specialty Products Inc. (ICL) for its planned Commercial-scale Domestic Battery Cathode Manufacturing Plant in St. Louis, St. Louis County, Missouri. The Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) can also be found on DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) website at <https://netl.doe.gov/node/6939> or the DOE website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-environmental-assessments>

DOE prepared the Draft EA in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR Part 1021). It evaluates the potential environmental impacts of DOE's providing financial assistance to ICL under the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The objective for ICL's Commercial-scale Domestic Battery Cathode Manufacturing Plant is to demonstrate the ability to domestically produce lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cathode active material (CAM) for use in safe, long-life, high capacity, and commercial LFP batteries. The new plant would fill a critical role in the high-capacity battery supply chain required for electric vehicle production and is expected to be the first large-scale LFP material manufacturing plant in the United States. The new plant would be constructed on approximately 19 acres located in an area of mixed heavy industrial, commercial, and residential use in the City of St. Louis.

The Draft EA evaluates the resource areas DOE commonly addresses in EAs and identified no significant adverse environmental impacts from DOE's proposed action or ICL's proposed project. The Commercial-scale Domestic Battery Cathode Manufacturing Plant supports sourcing of battery materials for electric vehicles within the U.S. and will reduce dependence on foreign material suppliers.

A Notice of Availability will be published in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the *St. Louis American* on December 9, 2024 and December 12, 2024, respectively, to announce the beginning of a 30-day public review and comment period. As stated in the notice, comments should be marked "ICL Draft EA Comments" and sent to:

Mr. Harry Taylor
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National Energy Technology Laboratory
3610 Collins Ferry Road
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Email: harry.taylor@netl.doe.gov
Telephone: 304.285.5091

Individual names and addresses, including email addresses, received as part of the comment documents normally are considered part of the public record. Persons wishing to withhold

names, addresses, or other identifying information from the public record must state this request prominently at the beginning of their comments. DOE will honor this request to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations, 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.

The public comment period ends on January 11, 2025. DOE will consider late submissions to the extent practicable. To request a hard copy of the Draft EA, please submit your request along with the physical address using the contact information above. For additional information, please contact me using my contact information, or call me at 304.285.5091.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. E. Taylor', is positioned above the typed name.

Harry E. Taylor, P.E.
NEPA Compliance Officer
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