



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination

Categorical Exclusion

Recipient: Golden Aluminum, Inc.

State: Colorado

Project Title: NEXCAST - Next Generation Aluminum Mini Mill

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0002936

Award Number: DE-CD0000087

OCED NEPA Control Number: OCED-00087-001-CX

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPENDIX, NUMBER, AND DESCRIPTION: A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination: Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment: Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.

Rationale for Determination:

DOE's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) is proposing to provide funding to Golden Aluminum, Inc. (GAI) in support of their project to upgrade GAI's aluminum casting facility in Fort Lupton, Colorado by installing an upgraded continuous block caster to deploy its innovative NEXCAST process. NEXCAST introduces a groundbreaking continuous strip casting technology designed to produce continuously formed aluminum sheet for various major aluminum flat rolled product markets. These

markets encompass packaging, industrial applications and electric vehicles. Associated systems such as molten aluminum handling, scrap processing, and downstream equipment will be upgraded to integrate seamlessly with the new NEXCAST line.

At this time, DOE is proposing to provide funding in support of GAI's planning, design, construction, and operation activities only; those activities are described below.

GAI activities would include the following actions:

- NEXCAST preparation, installation, commissioning, and ramp up;
- Melting Furnace 1 Burner Upgrade installation and commissioning;
- Wash Line Electrical Upgrades fabrication, procurement, installation, and commissioning;
- Landis Roll Grinder planning and installation;
- Coating line, Cold Mill Stand 1, Melting Furnace 2, Melting Furnace 3, Braner Slitter, Delacquering Kiln and Shredder, Hot Mill engineering studies;
- Training Center architectural study;
- Acquiring all necessary permits;
- Project management, budgeting, reporting, updating LCA analysis;
- Coating Line planning and equipment installation;
- Add Cold Mill Stand 1 automation controls;
- Braner Slitter electrical upgrades;
- Training Facility equipment procurement and construction;
- Melting Furnace 2 and 3 burner upgrade;
- Delacquering Kiln equipment upgrade;
- Shredder equipment upgrade;
- Hot Mill Upgrade; and,
- Implementing Community Benefit Plan activities.

All equipment installations and upgrades would be within the existing facility footprint. GAI would need to take apart and put back together a section of the metal structure that is in the newer section of the plant to help with the installation of equipment. The training facility construction would involve removing walls within the interior of the existing facility but would not expand the facility footprint or require an exterior work to be completed. To accommodate the new equipment, the existing electrical and control systems will also be upgraded within the existing facility. Improvements in safety measures will be implemented to align with the new equipment configurations. DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts to sensitive resources as a result of the proposed activities.

Consultations (Section 106 NHPA, Section 7 ESA, etc.): DOE completed a review of the project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The existing facility was built in 1974 and is older than 45 years of age. The front of the building can be seen by the public from the street; however, no exterior work would be completed on this building therefore there would be no changes to the facility's character or setting that would occur. DOE has determined that the project would have no potential to cause effects on historic properties and no consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office is required. DOE has documented these findings in a memo to file for the project record.

Prior to construction, the Recipient shall provide evidence of receipt of all necessary pre-construction permits, which may include a copy of the permit and/or the transmittal letter from the permitting agency.

☒ The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not:

- (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders;
- (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities;
- (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases;
- (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B (4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B;
- (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B (5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

☒ This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1501.9(e)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.1(g)(3)) and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

☐ DOE has determined that work to be carried out outside of the United States, its territories and possessions is exempt from further review pursuant to Section 5.1.1 of the DOE Final Guidelines for Implementation of Executive Order 12114; "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions."

☒ The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

☐ A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Notes: This categorical exclusion applies to those activities listed above. Any changes to the project activities or location are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for

federal funding unless and until the Grants and Agreements Officer provides written authorization on those additions or modifications.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

OCED NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Date: