March 11, 2026

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for the SWA Lithium LLC – South West Arkansas Project (DOE/EA-2304D)

Dear Reader:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) – National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) invites comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the SWA Lithium LLC – South West Arkansas Project. The Draft EA can be found on DOE's NETL EA website at https://netl.doe.gov/node/6939.

The Draft EA has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended (42 USC § 4321) and DOE's implementing procedures for compliance with NEPA. DOE prepared the Draft EA to evaluate the potential environmental and social impacts of DOE's Proposed Action to provide cost-shared funding to SWA Lithium LLC for its Proposed South West Arkansas Project (SWA Project) to support the development of a lithium processing plant in the Smackover region of southwest Arkansas.

SWA Lithium LLC proposes to extract brine from the Smackover Formation via brine production wells at a rate of up to 200,000 barrels per day, extract lithium from the brine, convert it to a saleable battery-quality lithium carbonate product, and reinject the effluent brine back into the Smackover Formation for pressure maintenance via new brine injection wells. The Proposed SWA Project would produce a nominal 22,500 metric tons per annum of battery-quality lithium carbonate over a 20-year operating life. The components of the Proposed SWA Project would include a Central Processing Facility (CPF), along with a wellfield encompassing five well pads, brine production and injection wells, brine gathering and distribution pipelines, a sour gas disposal pipeline, power distribution lines, and access roads.

A notice of availability has been published in the Lafayette County Press, Magnolia Banner News, Magnolia Reporter, and Texarkana Gazette to announce the availability of the Draft EA for public review and comment. The 30-day public comment period is from March 11 through April 9, 2026. A hard copy is also available for review at the Lafayette County Library, located at 219 E. 3rd Street, Lewisville, AR 71845.

Oral, written, or e-mailed comments will be accepted on the Draft EA through close of business on April 9, 2026. Comments received by the close of the comment period will be considered in preparing a Final EA for SWA Lithium LLC's Proposed Project. Comments received after the end of the comment period will be addressed to the extent practicable. Comments should be marked "SWA Lithium Draft EA Comments" and include name, address, and organization (if applicable). Individual names and

addresses (including e-mail addresses) received as part of the public comment period 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 submitted comments. DOE will honor this request to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and individuals will be included in the public record and open to inspection in their entirety.

Comments should be submitted to Stephen Witmer using the contact information below:

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To request a hard copy of the Draft EA, please submit your request (including the mailing address where it should be sent) using the contact information above. For additional information, please contact Stephen Witmer using the contact information above.

Sincerely,

Stephen Witmer
NEPA Compliance Officer