

operations identified in the RCBA. Corps, Reclamation, and Bonneville also will work with NMFS and FWS to ensure compliance with the ESA, coordinate environmental reviews, and maintain protections afforded to ESA-listed species and critical habitat under existing environmental compliance documentation.

The Co-lead agencies (and Bonneville when appropriate) will comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements in evaluating the Proposed Action, including but not limited to the ESA, Clean Water Act, Section 106 of the NHPA, and Executive Orders, including E.O. 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations and E.O. 14096 on Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice For All, and the recent Presidential Memorandum, *Restoring Healthy and Abundant Salmon, Steelhead, and Other Native Fish Populations in the Columbia River Basin*, 88 FR 67617 (October 2, 2023).

The Co-Lead Agencies will also ensure government-to-government consultation with Tribes that honors the U.S. Government's longstanding commitments to Tribal Nations.

6. *Schedule for the Decision-Making Process.* To the extent feasible, the Co-Lead Agencies will complete the SEIS in compliance with the deadlines and schedules set forth in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1501.10(b). The draft SEIS will be available for public review and comment. A 45-day public review period will be provided for interested parties and agencies to review and comment on this draft document. All interested parties are encouraged to respond to this Notice of Intent and provide a current address if they wish to be notified of the Draft SEIS circulation. The Co-Lead Agencies would issue a decision at the conclusion of the NEPA process, in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.10. Corps, Reclamation, and Bonneville would also determine how to proceed consistent with their Section 7 obligations under the ESA and any resulting biological opinions in accordance with 50 CFR 402.15.

7. *Scoping Process/Public Involvement.* The Co-Lead Agencies invite all affected Federal, State, and local agencies, affected Tribes, other interested parties, and the general public to participate in the NEPA process during development of the SEIS. Three (3) virtual public scoping meetings will be held the week of February 10, 2025. The specific dates, times, and meeting information will be published on the project website:

<https://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/CRSO/>. Additional public meetings will be scheduled after release of the draft SEIS.

The Co-Lead Agencies are issuing this Notice of Intent to: (1) Advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of their plan to analyze effects related to system operations, maintenance and configuration; (2) obtain suggestions and information that may inform the scope of issues to evaluate in the SEIS; and (3) provide notice and request public input on potential effects on historic properties from system operations, maintenance and configuration due to potential modification of the undertaking in accordance with section 106 of the NHPA (36 CFR 800.2(d)(3) and 800.8(c)(5)). The Co-Lead agencies will also identify any cooperating and participating agencies that the Co-Lead agencies may require information from to facilitate their future decision after completion of the Notice of Intent scoping period.

William C. Hannan,
Brigadier General, US Army, Division Commander.

Jennifer Carrington,
Regional Director, Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region, Bureau of Reclamation.
[FR Doc. 2024-29936 Filed 12-17-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Paducah

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy.
ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Paducah. The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, January 16, 2025; 5:30–7 p.m. CST.

ADDRESSES: West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Emerging Technology Center, Room 215, 5100 Alben Barkley Drive, Paducah, Kentucky 42001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert “Buz” Smith, Federal Coordinator, by Phone: (270) 441-6821 or Email: Robert.Smith@pppo.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to provide advice and

recommendations concerning the following EM site-specific issues: clean-up activities and environmental restoration; waste and nuclear materials management and disposition; excess facilities; future land use and long-term stewardship. The Board may also be asked to provide advice and recommendations on any EM program components.

Tentative Agenda:

- Administrative Activities
- Public Comment Period

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. The EM SSAB, Paducah will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Robert “Buz” Smith in advance of the meeting. The Department of Energy will hear oral public comments during the meeting. A 15-minute public comment period will take place at the end of the agenda. Individual oral comments are to be limited to two minutes per speaker to ensure time for all who wish to speak. Written statements may be filed either before or after the meeting. Written comments submitted by 5 p.m. CST on Friday, January 24, 2025, will be included in the minutes. Please submit written comments to Zachary Boyarski at Zachary.Boyarski@pppo.gov with “Public Comment” in the subject line. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Minutes: Minutes will be available by writing or calling Eric Roberts, Board Support Manager, Emerging Technology Center, Room 221, 4810 Alben Barkley Drive, Paducah, KY 42001; Phone: (270) 554-3004. Minutes will also be available at the following website: <https://www.energy.gov/pppo/pgdp-cab/listings/meeting-materials>.

Signing Authority: This document of the Department of Energy was signed on December 12, 2024, by Alyssa Petit, Deputy Committee Management Officer, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 12, 2024.

Jennifer Hartzell,

Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,
U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2024–29868 Filed 12–17–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2), (DOE/EIS–0569)

AGENCY: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, notice of scoping meetings, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and applicable NEPA implementing regulations to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action of providing financial assistance to Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle) to facilitate the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub (also referred to as the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub or ARCH2) in the Appalachian Region including Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. DOE is issuing this Notice of Intent to inform the public about the proposed action; announce plans to conduct public scoping meetings; invite public participation in the scoping process; and solicit public comments for consideration in establishing the scope of the EIS, including the range of reasonable alternatives and the potential environmental impacts to be analyzed.

DATES: The public scoping period for the EIS starts with the publication of this notice of intent (NOI) and ends on March 3, 2025. DOE will hold one virtual public scoping meeting at the following date and time (eastern time):

- Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6 p.m.–8 p.m.

DOE will hold three in-person public scoping meetings. Dates, times, and locations are to be determined and will be shared on the DOE's web page for this EIS no less than 15 days before the meetings.

All meetings are open to the public and free to attend. Details on how to participate in the virtual and in-person public scoping meetings are available on

the DOE's web page for this EIS: <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doeeis-0569-appalachian-hydrogen-hub-multiple-locations>. In defining the scope of the EIS, DOE will consider all scoping comments received or postmarked by March 3, 2025. Comments received or postmarked after the scoping period end date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Oral or written comments may be provided at the public scoping meetings or submitted in any of the following ways:

- Through the *regulations.gov* web portal: Navigate to *www.regulations.gov* and search for Docket No. DOE–HQ–2024–0082 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery Service:* Send comments in an envelope labeled “DOE/EIS–0569” and addressed to TRC APPALACHIAN HYDROGEN HUB Coordinator, Teays Corporate Centre, 135 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 540, Scott Depot, West Virginia 25560

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Moore, Project Manager, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20585, email OCED_ARCH2_EIS@hq.doe.gov, or telephone (202) 309–2037.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Congress directed DOE to establish a Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs) program to create regional networks of hydrogen producers, consumers, and local connective infrastructure to accelerate the use of hydrogen as a clean energy carrier. The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) within DOE is implementing the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program and will use the NEPA process to help it decide whether to provide financial assistance for the H2Hubs.

Congress directed DOE to select H2Hubs using certain criteria. Specifically, Congress directed DOE to select H2Hubs that will use a diversity of feedstocks to produce clean hydrogen, including at least one H2Hub that will demonstrate the production of clean hydrogen from fossil fuels, one H2Hub that will demonstrate the production of clean hydrogen from renewables, and one H2Hub that will demonstrate the production of clean hydrogen from nuclear energy. Congress also directed DOE to select H2Hubs that will use clean hydrogen in a diversity of

end uses, including at least one H2Hub that will demonstrate the use of clean hydrogen in the following sectors: electric power generation, industrial, residential and commercial heating, and transportation. Congress required that DOE give priority to H2Hubs that are likely to create opportunities for skilled training and long-term employment to the greatest number of residents of the region. Congress also directed DOE to include geographic diversity, directing that DOE locate H2Hubs in different regions of the United States, and that the H2Hubs are to use the energy resources that are abundant in their respective regions. Congress further required DOE to select, to the maximum extent practicable, at least two H2Hubs in the regions of the United States with the greatest natural gas resources.

DOE issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA–0002779) to solicit applications for H2Hubs. DOE selected the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub for award negotiations following a rigorous Merit Review process to identify meritorious applications to the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program based on the criteria listed in FOA–0002779. DOE has provided limited funding in support of preliminary Appalachian Hydrogen Hub planning activities.

The Appalachian Hydrogen Hub, as proposed, satisfies certain criteria Congress required in the BIL for the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program. The Appalachian Hydrogen Hub has the potential to demonstrate the production of clean hydrogen from fossil fuels. The Appalachian Hydrogen Hub proposes to use clean hydrogen in a diversity of end uses, including but not limited to industry, power generation, and transportation. Further, the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub would create opportunities for skilled training and long-term employment for residents of the region. In addition, the location of the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub in the Appalachian Region that includes Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia meets the criterion requiring geographic diversity within the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program. The Appalachian Hydrogen Hub also satisfies the criterion that DOE select a Hub in a region of the United States with the greatest natural gas resources.

The Appalachian Hydrogen Hub is proposed to consist of a suite of demonstration projects involving clean hydrogen production, transportation, and end uses located within the Appalachian Region that includes Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Battelle is the primary funding recipient and lead Appalachian Hydrogen Hub