

concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. DOE's review focused on whether the views and information identified that the Project would affect the quality of the human environment in a significant manner or to a significant extent not already considered in the Final DOE/EIS-0561 and related environmental review processes. As discussed, the views and information did not identify new information that showed the Project would affect the quality of the human environment in a significant manner or to a significant extent not already encompassed by the analysis considered in the Final DOE/EIS-0561 or in the preparation of this Record of Decision.

DOE grouped the views and information received into the following 10 categories: (1) NEPA process (DOE's Record of Decision); (2) DOE's due diligence process for the loan (financial and technical viability of the project); (3) socioeconomics (viability of lithium batteries; lithium and sulfuric acid pricing); (4) safety (radioactive materials); (5) historic, cultural, and Tribal resources (Section 106, historic properties; Tribal input on federal agency decision making); (6) Electricity Use and GHG Emissions; (7) water resources (mining and the water table; impacts to springs, groundwater; data assumptions and groundwater models); (8) data gathering and monitoring (private land access; monitoring and work plans; work outside mine plan boundary) (9) air emissions, (10) chemical and waste management (sulfuric acid; clay tailings). With the exception of views and information on DOE's NEPA process, due diligence process, and socioeconomics, the views and information are addressed in the Final DOE/EIS-0561, specifically in appendix R (Comment Responses) and in consultations for the project (specifically, section 106).

The views and information received on DOE's NEPA process, DOE's due diligence process for the loan, and the socioeconomics (viability of lithium batteries; lithium and sulfuric acid pricing) were not addressed in the Final DOE/EIS-0561. DOE performs rigorous due diligence related to all aspects of a potential loan transaction under the ATVM Program. The ATVM Program is administered by the DOE LPO. LPO originates, underwrites, and services loans to eligible automotive manufacturers and components manufacturers. LPO has reviewed and determined that LNC's application is eligible for a potential loan (10 CFR 611.100, 611.101, and 611.102). The purpose and need for DOE's proposed action, the issuance of a Federal loan, is

to implement DOE's authority under section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which is to finance projects that reequip, expand, or establish manufacturing facilities in the United States to produce qualified advanced technology vehicles or qualifying components, and also for engineering integration costs associated with such projects. (42 U.S.C. 17013, as amended). Before LPO issues the Federal loan, the due diligence process includes an analysis on technical, financial, and environmental aspects of the project to include completion of DOE's NEPA process (BLM EIS adoption, consultations, and Record of Decision), the financial and technical viability of the project, and the socioeconomics (viability of lithium batteries; lithium and sulfuric acid pricing) involved. The company must satisfy certain technical, legal, environmental, and financial conditions before the Department funds the loan.

DOE thoroughly reviewed and considered all the views and information received during and after the review period and has concluded that none of the comments provide new information or identify new circumstances that warrant preparation of a supplemental EIS. This conclusion is based on the following: (1) the majority of the views and information were addressed in the Final DOE/EIS-0561, specifically in Appendix R; (2) the additional review conducted by BLM in the June 25, 2024, approval letter for minor modification to Phase 1 of the Mine Plan; (3) review of required permits, approvals, and works plans for the project and any associated updates to those permits, approvals, and work plans; (4) the consultations, determinations, and coordination completed by DOE; and (5) the additional analysis described above that were considered in the preparation of this ROD.

Decision: DOE has decided to issue a loan to LNC, for construction and start-up of lithium processing to include a sulfuric acid plant, lithium processing facility, and supporting infrastructure and facilities in Humboldt County, Nevada. Approval of the loan for the Thacker Pass Project responds to the DOE purpose and need pursuant to section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which is to finance projects that reequip, expand, or establish manufacturing facilities in the United States to produce qualified advanced technology vehicles or qualifying components, and also for engineering integration costs associated with such projects. (42 U.S.C. 17013, as amended). DOE's Proposed Action

evaluated in this ROD supports the Phase 1 activities at Thacker Pass analyzed within the Final DOE/EIS-0561.

Mitigation: All DOE loan agreements require that the borrower comply with all applicable environmental laws and related requirements, as well as required approvals and permits. To ensure that the recipient complies with the requirements of the loan agreement, the Loan Programs Office proactively monitors and administers all operative loan transactions. The loan agreement includes a condition requiring that LNC must notify DOE if formal or informal environmental notices, orders, decisions, directives, or determinations submitted by any Governmental Authority or if there are any changes to Required Approvals. These mitigation measures are practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm. A recipient's failure to comply with applicable laws, authorizations, and approvals may constitute a default, upon which DOE would have the right under the loan agreement to exercise usual and customary remedies.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on October 28, 2024, by Jigar Shah, Director, Loan Programs Office, 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 October 29, 2024.

Treena V. Garrett,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Proposed Emergency Information Collection

AGENCY: Grid Deployment Office, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Deployment Office (GDO) invites the public to comment on a proposed emergency collection of information that DOE is developing for submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before December 2, 2024. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments but find it difficult to do so within the period allowed by this notice, please advise the OMB Desk Officer of your intention to make a submission as soon as possible. The Desk Officer may be telephoned at (202) 881-8585.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aisha Miranda Rivera, Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Suite 4H-065, Washington, DC 20585; (240) 429-5213; aisha.miranda-rivera@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the extended collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

This information collection request contains:

(1) *OMB No.:* 1910-5200;

(2) *Information Collection Request Title:* Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF), Household Intake Form;

(3) *Type of Request:* Emergency Clearance;

(4) *Purpose:* The PR-ERF will support the installation of rooftop solar and storage solutions for vulnerable Puerto Rican households. The purpose of this Information Collection Request (ICR) is

to authorize the ‘PR-ERF Household Intake Form’ as the means to collect homeowner information necessary to qualify households as eligible to participate in the deployment phase of the PR-ERF. Eligibility is limited to very low-income single-family households¹ residing in Puerto Rico that (1) include an individual with an energy-dependent disability or (2) are located in a Last Mile Community.² On May 15, 2024, OMB approved form 1910-5200. GDO is seeking a revision of the current intake form, specifically the sections related to income eligibility and proof of an individual with an energy dependent disability. DOE has initiated installations of solar PV and battery storage systems to address the harm and risk represented by the fragility of the island’s power system. However, DOE has received significant public input from program awardees and potential beneficiaries³ to expand the types of information that may be submitted to verify eligibility under the program. Many awardees and potential beneficiaries of this program have requested DOE expand the definition “very low-income single-family household” to consider additional income qualifying programs, such as Plan de Salud Vital and USDA Sections 502 and 504 Programs and allow potential beneficiaries to submit this information as verification of eligibility to the program. Also, awardees expressed age verification as an appropriate modality for verifying energy-dependent disability status and including temperature control devices as eligible medical equipment for energy-dependent critical load purposes. As a result, it is necessary for DOE to modify the program information collection practices in response to this public feedback.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents:* 40,140;

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses:* 80,000;

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours:* 56,800;

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* \$845,520.

Statutory Authority: The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, Public Law 117-328, directs the Department of

¹ A census block that (a) has a high percent of very low-income households, and (b) experiences frequent and prolonged power outages. Solar Ambassador organizations will perform outreach activities in Last Mile Communities to identify qualifying households.

² <https://clausa.app.carto.com/map/f63080c5-19c9-47c6-8ac8-74d96358e9ed>.

³ This includes responses to a Request for Information on the program design issues February 21, 2023 as well through negotiations with program awardees.

Energy to improve the resilience of the Puerto Rican electric grid, including grants for low-and-moderate-income households and households that include individuals with disabilities for the purchase and installation of renewable energy, energy storage, and other grid technologies.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on October 28, 2024, by Maria D. Robinson, Director, Grid Deployment Office, 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 October 28, 2024.

Jennifer Hartzell,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration

Advisory Committee for Nuclear Security

AGENCY: Office of Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a closed meeting of the Advisory Committee for Nuclear Security (ACNS). The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that public notice of meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**. Due to national security considerations, the meeting will be closed to the public and matters to be discussed are exempt from public disclosure under the Executive order, “Classified National Security Information,” and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

DATES: December 3, 2024; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: In-person meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Watti Hill, Office of Policy for Strategic