



## Department of Energy

Golden Field Office  
1617 Cole Boulevard  
Golden, Colorado 80401-3305

September 12, 2007

### DISTRIBUTION LIST

**SUBJECT:** Request for Public and Agency Comments on the Proposed Research Support Facilities, Site Infrastructure Improvements (Phase 1 of Full Site Development), and Thermochemical User Facility Upgrade at The National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Site

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), will be preparing a Supplement to its Site-wide Environmental Assessment of the NREL South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA #1440, July 2003). The EA Supplement will analyze the proposed Research Support Facilities, Site Infrastructure Improvements (Phase 1 of Full Site Development), and Thermochemical User Facility Upgrade at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain site near Golden, Colorado. A description of the site and the proposed site development projects is included in the attachment to this letter.

NREL is a federally owned, contractor-operated research facility that supports renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. DOE is the lead agency for this EA Supplement, and other federal, state, and local agencies are invited to participate in the environmental assessment process. DOE is requesting public input on the proposed NEPA process, proposed actions and alternatives, and the environmental issues to be addressed in the EA.

Pursuant to the requirements of NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and DOE's implementing procedures for compliance with NEPA (10 CFR Part 1021), DOE is preparing a draft EA Supplement to:

- Identify any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided should this proposed action be implemented.
- Evaluate viable alternatives to the proposed action, including a no action alternative.
- Describe the relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.
- Characterize any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved should this proposed action be implemented.



DOE plans to complete the draft EA public review by January 2008. This letter and the draft EA, when it is available, will be posted in the DOE Golden Field Office electronic reading room: [http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/reading\\_room.aspx](http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/reading_room.aspx).

The DOE Golden Field Office welcomes your input throughout our NEPA process. Please direct your comments to:

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Please provide comments by October 12, 2007. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Gregory D. Collette  
Office of Laboratory Operations  
Acting Assistant Manager

Enclosure

cc: Maureen Jordan  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
NREL