NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY
Albany, OR • Morgantown, WV • Pittsburgh, PA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

APR 3 0 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY V. CUGINI
DIRECTOR

FROM: R PAUL DETWILER
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PROJECT FACILITATION AND COMPLIANCE

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment for Celgard LLC's Proposed Project under the Electric Drive Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative (DOE/EA-1713)

The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) has completed its required environmental review for Celgard's proposed project under the Electric Drive Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative. The Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1713) was prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 to 1508) and DOE NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR Part 1021).

This proposed project was one of 30 DOE selected for financial assistance from the March 19, 2009 funding opportunity announcement DE-FOA-0000026, *Recovery Act – Electric Drive Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative*. DOE's proposed action would provide $49.3 million in financial assistance under a cost-sharing arrangement with Celgard. The total cost of the project is estimated at $101.8 million.

DOE's proposed action is to provide a grant to partially fund Celgard's proposed project - the construction of a small industrial facility (approximately 135,000 square feet) on approximately 20.6 acres of land for the manufacture of separator materials for commercial hybrid-electric vehicle batteries. The proposed project would involve the installation of a plant with sufficient capacity to make at least 1,000,000 square meters of separator material for 20,000 or more plug-in hybrid-electric vehicle batteries per year. The project would include warehouse space, five truck docks, and an ancillary building of approximately 5,000 square feet. The facility would include manufacturing process equipment, shipping and receiving docks and warehousing facilities, product test laboratories, quality assurance laboratories, administrative offices, common areas, and maintenance shops.

The Draft EA was distributed to appropriate federal and state agencies, and was made available for a 15-day public comment period. NETL considered comments received and made changes to the Final EA as appropriate.

The EA analyzed the potential environmental impacts of providing funding to Celgard LLC to construct and operate an electric drive vehicle battery and component manufacturing facility. Based on the analysis in the EA, DOE determined that providing funding to Celgard for this

facility would result in no significant adverse impacts. This determination is documented in the attached Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and is supported by the Final EA

On the basis of the evaluations in the Final EA, DOE determined that its proposed action - providing a $49.3 million federal grant - and Celgard's proposed project - constructing a small industrial facility in Concord, North Carolina - would have no significant impact on the human environment

Although the proposed project would cause increased air emissions; disturbance to soils, vegetation, and wildlife; increased potential for groundwater contamination; increased energy use; and increased noise and traffic; these impacts would be minor. The project proponent would be required to comply with applicable permit requirements during construction and operations. All other potential environmental impacts would be negligible

Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required and the Office of Project Facilitation and Compliance recommends that NETL issue a Finding of No Significant Impact for DOE's proposed action and Celgard's proposed project.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign and issue FONSI

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A. Cugini
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