

# COVER SHEET

**Responsible Agency:** U.S. Department of Energy

**Title:** Texas Clean Energy Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0444D)

**Location:** Odessa, Ector County, Texas

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## Abstract

This draft environmental impact statement (EIS) provides information about the potential environmental impacts associated with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) proposal to provide limited financial assistance (approximately \$450 million), through a cooperative agreement, to Summit Texas Clean Energy, LLC (Summit) for the proposed Texas Clean Energy Project (TCEP). The TCEP would use coal-based integrated gasification combined-cycle technology to generate electric power and would capture carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) for use in enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and eventual sequestration. The plant would generate 400 megawatts (gross) of electricity, of which 213 megawatts would be provided to the power grid. It would also produce urea, argon, and sulfuric acid for sale in commercial markets. Because of its multiple production capabilities, the plant is referred to as a poly-generation (polygen) plant. DOE would provide approximately 26 percent of the project's total capital cost of at least \$1.73 billion (2009 dollars).

The polygen plant would be built on a 600-acre (243-hectare) oil field site in Ector County, Texas, north of the oil community of Penwell. Summit would design and construct the plant to capture approximately 90 percent of its CO<sub>2</sub>. During the demonstration phase of the plant's operations, the project would sequester approximately 3 million tons (2.7 million metric tonnes) of CO<sub>2</sub> per year by transporting it in pipelines to existing oil fields in the Permian Basin of West Texas for use in EOR operations by third-party buyers of the CO<sub>2</sub>. Following the demonstration phase, the polygen plant would continue in commercial operation for 30 to 50 years.

DOE determined that the proposed TCEP constitutes a major federal action within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The *Federal Register* "Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Texas Clean Energy Project, Ector County,

Texas” was published on June 2, 2010 (75 *Federal Register* 30800). DOE held a public scoping meeting at Odessa College in Odessa, Texas on June 17, 2010.

This draft EIS provides an evaluation of the environmental consequences that may result from Summit’s proposed project, including potential impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions; climate; soils, geology, and mineral resources; ground water resources; surface water resources; biological resources; aesthetics; cultural resources; land use; socioeconomics; environmental justice; community services; utility systems; transportation; materials and waste management; human health, safety, and accidents; and noise and vibration. The draft EIS also provides an analysis of the No Action Alternative, under which DOE would not provide financial assistance to the TCEP, with the assumption that without federal financial assistance, the project would not be constructed.

### **Comment Period**

DOE will consider all comments received or postmarked by close of business May 2, 2011 in preparing the final EIS and will consider late comments to the extent practical.