Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

For Site Preparation for EastPark Braidy Aluminum Manufacturing Facility

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action located in Boyd County, Kentucky. The proposed action would entail construction of a soil surcharge to increase load capacity at the site to accommodate the construction of a 1.8 million square foot aluminum manufacturing facility with production capacity of 550,000 tons. The attached EA contains a more detailed project description. OSMRE would fund $4,000,000 of this construction work through the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program (AMLER) fund.

The attached EA considered the proposed action and a no action alternative, and analyzed direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on historic/cultural resources, fish and wildlife, soils/water, agricultural resources, recreation, small businesses, air quality, hazardous waste, noise, topography, and environmental justice.

OSMRE solicited public comments on the draft EA from Oct 4, 2019 through October 11, 2019. No comments were received.

OSMRE found that no significant impacts would occur from the proposed action. Short term and temporary impacts may occur during the construction phase of the project. Regular impacts during the operational phase of the aluminum manufacturing facility will remain within limits specified in air quality, hazardous waste, and water quality permits and regulations. The site setting is primarily industrial, and the proposed action would not change the character of the site or region. The proposed action will not adversely affect any resources eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species. OSMRE found that no mitigation measures would be necessary to prevent or minimize significant environmental impacts.

The proposed action would address the AMLER program’s purpose of providing economic stimulus in abandoned mine land communities, and the no action alternative would not address this purpose and need.

Based on the information presented in the attached EA, OSMRE finds that implementing the proposed action would not produce any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, issuance of a FONSI is warranted, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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