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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STATE ENERGY OFFICE

Welcome to the HALO Hydrogen Hub online portal, a centralized location for updates and information on the cooperative effort among Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma to promote and support the expansion of clean hydrogen production and use within the partner states, across the broader region, and throughout the U.S.

Louisiana spearheaded organizing the three-state bipartisan initiative in response to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), which allocated up to \$8 billion to create several regional hydrogen hubs around the country. Following an agreement by all three governors to establish the partnership in spring 2022, HALO submitted a notice to the U.S. Department of Energy, the agency responsible for awarding the funding, of intention to submit a proposal to establish a hydrogen hub in the region.

So, what exactly is a hydrogen hub? Simply put, it is a regional center that has strong potential to create a network of clean hydrogen producers, transporters, and users that can benefit from the research, infrastructure, and technology funded under this effort while demonstrating that a clean hydrogen economy can sustain itself once that funding is no longer available.

Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma readily recognize that the building blocks for such a hub are already in place across the respective states, with ample natural gas production; robust pipeline networks; rail and river transports; heavy industry that already relies on hydrogen as a feedstock; established ports and trucking centers that could convert to hydrogen fuel; and opportunities to take advantage of regional geology to sequester carbon captured from hydrogen production deep underground.

To support this effort, the three states facilitated a concerted effort to engage academia, communities, industry, relevant stakeholders, and populations that historically have been overlooked or struggled to capitalize on similar economic opportunities. What we have found is a great deal of partners are eager to engage in public-private partnerships to make clean hydrogen more available and a larger part of the region's energy portfolio.

The HALO Hydrogen Hub submitted its initial proposal to DOE on November 5, 2022 and looks with optimism toward the next stage of the process. DOE is expected to announce a list of candidate hubs in December 2022, followed by what we hope will be news of selection for funding in spring 2023.

In the meantime, this portal is your centralized guide to who's involved, why it's important, what progress has been made, and what happens next—not only in HALO's effort to secure funding and be named a regional hydrogen hub, but in what we hope will be monumental progress in diversifying the region's energy portfolio and expanding economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

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