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January 31, 2020

Oil & Gas EIS Project

Mr. Robert Potts

Natural Resources and Planning Team Leader

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

2221 North Raguet

Lufkin, Texas 75904

Dear Rob,

The Houston Regional Group and Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club (Sierra Club) provide this sixteenth set of comments for scoping for the U.S. Forest Service (FS) oil/gas leasing environmental impact statement (OGLEIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT).

Although the official scoping period is over, the Sierra Club will continue to send the FS documents and articles that relate to the OGLEIS. The Sierra Club has been told in the past that although there is an official scoping comment period, that scoping extends from the beginning of the scoping comment period until the draft EIS is released. There are additional articles that the Sierra Club provides to the FS with this letter.

1. "In war against plastic, the energy industry should beware", Chris Tomlinson, Houston Chronicle, January 29, 2020.

This article says, "The implications for the environment and the petrochemical industry is significant ... Experts hope that once economical recycling processes are available, companies create buyback programs that pay enough to make recycling profitable. This is bad news for the oil and gas industry, which is backing on petrochemical demand growing as gasoline and diesel demand recedes .. But one thing is clear; the petrochemical industry will be drastically different than it is today, the supply chain should pay attention."

This is another environmental impact due to oil/gas extraction that should be analyzed in the OGLEIS.

2. "Big Oil wants to dump more wastewater into rivers. What could go wrong?", Naveen Adasivam, The Daily Grist, January 22, 2020.

The article brings up another environmental impact due to oil/gas extraction particularly since the U.S. EPA is weakening environmental wastewater standards. The FS must consider this and analyze its impact in the OGLEIS.

3. "The industry is a victim of its own success", Rachel Adams-Heard, Naureen S. Malik, and Sayer Devlin, Bloomberg News, Houston Chronicle, January 26, 2020.

This article says, "But the dark side of the boom is increasingly difficult to ignore. Shale drillers are extracting so

much gas that it's overwhelming demand ... At that level, U.S. producers simply don't make money. It's forcing a wave of multibillion-dollar write-downs, layoffs and spending cuts ... The industry is a victim of its own success ... You don't just have oversupply in the U.S. -you have oversupply in Europe, oversupply in Asia, and really oversupply across the globe."

4. "Electric cars making inroads in Houston", Paul Takahashi, Houston chronicle, January 26,2020.

This article says, "Electric vehicles ... were front and center at the 37th annual Houston Auto Show, another sign of a quickening energy transition that has huge implications for the region's oil industry and economy ... Demand for electric vehicles is expected to explode in the coming decade as major automakers increase production and battery technology continue to advance, helping to lower prices and improve range. Industry leaders predict electric vehicles will become price-competitive with conventional gas[shy]powered vehicles as early as 2023."

The Sierra Club appreciates this opportunity to provide these additional initial scoping comments about the social, econpmic, and environmental impacts of the OGLEIS. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brandt Mannchen
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