

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) provides the results of a study on the potential environmental impacts from construction and operation of a gas-to-liquids (GTL) fuels production plant that would be operated to produce (nominally) 70 barrels per day of ultra-clean transportation fuels, primarily near-zero sulfur content diesel fuel, from natural gas. If approved, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) would provide approximately 44% of the funding required to demonstrate both the technical performance of the technology and the environmental and efficiency advantages of using the diesel fuel product in fleet vehicles and other engine tests.

The proposed action is cost-shared financial support by DOE, through a cooperative agreement with Integrated Concepts & Research Corporation (ICRC) and Syntroleum Corporation, for construction and operation of a 70 barrel per day GTL fuels production plant at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa Industrial Park in Rogers County, OK. DOE would provide approximately \$16 million of the \$36 million cost of the project, which would comprise a 3-year effort, including plant operation for 6 months. The plant would be operated to produce sufficient ultra-clean synthetic diesel fuel for fleet vehicle testing in buses operated in Washington, D.C., and Denali National Park, Alaska.

The purpose of the EA is to determine if the proposed action could potentially cause significant impacts to the environment. If potentially significant environmental impacts are identified, and if they cannot be reduced to insignificance or avoided, then a more detailed Environmental Impact Statement would be prepared. If no significant environmental impacts are identified, a Finding of No Significant Impact would be prepared and made available to the public, along with the EA itself, before the proposed action proceeds.

This study was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations [Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1500-1508], and Department of Energy's NEPA Implementing Procedures (Title 10, CFR, Part 1021).