

DOE Announces Negotiations for Seven Regional Hydrogen Hubs, Including Two in Pennsylvania

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On October 13, 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it had selected seven Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs) to negotiate awards for \$7 billion in funding allocated under the Biden administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (2021). According to DOE, the H2Hubs will "accelerate the commercial-scale deployment of low-cost, clean hydrogen—a valuable energy product that can be produced with zero or near-zero carbon emissions" [Press Release](#), DOE, "Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$7 Billion For America's First Clean Hydrogen Hubs, Driving Clean Manufacturing and Delivering New Economic Opportunities Nationwide" (Oct. 13, 2023). Two of the H2Hubs are located in Pennsylvania and surrounding states, and other Hub projects are located in California; Texas; Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan; and Washington, Oregon, and Montana.

The Mid-Atlantic Hydrogen Hub (Selectee: Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub (MACH2)) is located in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. Per DOE, it will repurpose historical oil infrastructure and use existing rights-of-way "to develop renewable hydrogen production facilities from renewables and nuclear electricity using both established and innovative electrolyzer technologies" to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, DOE, "Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Selections for Award Negotiations," available [here](#). This Hub anticipates supporting apprenticeship programs, certifications, and other employment support, and creating more than 20,000 jobs (including more than 6,000 permanent jobs). This Hub's federal cost share is up to \$750 million.

The Appalachian Hydrogen Hub (Selectee: Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2)) is located in West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania and will "leverage the region's ample access to low-cost natural gas to produce low-cost clean hydrogen and permanently store the associated carbon emissions." *Id.* This Hub anticipates bringing more than 21,000 jobs (3,000+ permanent) to the Appalachian region, creating equitable workforce opportunities, and creating a Community Benefits Advisory Board, a Community Benefits Plan, and a Community Commitment Fund "to ensure the Hub reenergizes the Appalachian region economically, socially, and environmentally." *Id.* This Hub's federal cost share is up to \$925 million.

DOE's selection of the seven H2Hubs for project negotiation is the first step in a years-long process toward completing the Hubs. Next steps include negotiations, project awards, and implementation, which is divided into four phases: (1) project planning; (2) project development; (3) installation, integration, and construction; and (4) ramping-up and operations. See Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, DOE, "H2Hubs Local Engagement Opportunities," available [here](#). During the negotiations phase, reviewers and applicants will review the project organization, management, and budget, and evaluate risk, among other things. After completion of these steps, the reviewers will finalize documents, form awards packages, and review, approve, and issue funding awards. See Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, DOE, "[Award Negotiations](#)."

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