



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 18, 2024

Dear Mid-Atlantic community members and organizations,

Thank you for reaching out regarding your concerns with the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs), specifically, the [Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub \(MACH2\) \(mach-2.com\)](https://mach-2.com). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) selectees cannot successfully build these H2Hubs or successfully assist in the clean energy transformation without community engagement.

DOE is making an unprecedented investment of capital in demonstration projects across a range of clean energy technologies to implement the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). These technologies include, renewables, energy storage, clean hydrogen, and others.

DOE is fully committed to ensuring that the benefits of the H2Hub flow to local communities and that potential negative impacts are eliminated, minimized, and mitigated. Each H2Hub will implement a [Community Benefits Plan \(CBP\)](#) ensuring that Federal investments advance the following four goals: 1) engaging community and labor; 2) investing in the American workforce; 3) advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and 4) contributing to the Justice40 Initiative. DOE will provide oversight to ensure that selected H2Hubs have and deliver on robust community benefit commitments. A key part of the process is the expectation that the H2Hubs will collaborate with communities and workers to develop solutions to maximize these benefits and minimize negative impacts. We look forward to continuing to engage with local communities, environmental and environmental justice stakeholders, and the public as we implement the H2Hubs program and advance President Biden's Justice40 Initiative.

DOE also prioritizes developing H2Hubs in a way that is safe, protects human and environmental health, and is transparent and accountable to those that it impacts. DOE will assess their environmental impacts according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which establishes the broad national framework for protecting our environment. The CBP will also help minimize risks to host communities and workers by ensuring that strategies to avoid, mitigate, and minimize risks are developed in collaboration with communities and workers.

If you are interested, I would like to offer an opportunity to continue this conversation with my team to better understand some of the issues your communities are facing. Your input into the MACH2 Hub is essential at this early phase of the project. We will reach out to you about scheduling.

Thank you again for contacting us to share your concerns. Please continue to provide your valuable insights and feedback with us on the H2Hubs program.

Sincerely,

*Kelly Cummins*

Kelly Cummins  
Acting Director  
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations