

6 Agencies and Persons Consulted

FRA-Office of Safety and Hazardous Materials Division

PHMSA-Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Office of Chief Counsel

Applicant-Energy Transport Solutions, LLC

7 Conclusions

ETS has applied for a special permit requesting PHMSA to authorize ETS's use of DOT-113C120W tank cars as a packaging for the transportation of LNG by rail, subject to the constraints discussed in this draft EA. This EA was prepared to analyze the impacts to the environment of using DOT-113C120W tank cars as an appropriate packaging for transporting LNG by rail. PHMSA proposes that transportation of LNG by a DOT-113C120W rail tank car, as an alternative to the transport of LNG in MC-338 cargo tanks on the road, could provide a more cost-efficient mode of transport and reduce the environmental impact of transporting LNG. Moreover, the existing regulatory requirements that govern the movement of cryogenic flammable materials similar to LNG are expected to provide adequate safety measures for LNG shipped in DOT-113C120W tank cars.

This analysis did not identify any significant environmental impacts from granting this special permit. The LNG-carrying DOT-113C120W tank cars would travel on existing main rail lines. The addition of an authorization to transport another flammable, cryogenic material by rail using the same tank car and operating restrictions as other similar cryogenic flammables materials is not expected to introduce new, unaddressed risks. Furthermore, issuance of a special permit is expected to decrease the risks to the public and the environmental impacts associated with transporting LNG. Similarly, less wear-and-tear on public roadways would be expected. While it would be difficult to attribute any future LNG infrastructure construction (e.g., ancillary loading and unloading equipment) to PHMSA granting this special permit, any such construction that may arise would be subject to relevant existing regulations at the local, state and federal levels to address potential impacts.

8 Public Comment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

PHMSA welcomes public comment on the proposed special permit and any related environmental impacts or safety risks. PHMSA proposes to find that the issuance of the proposed special permit would not result in significant impacts to the human environment.