

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 2
Golden Pass LNG Terminal LP
Docket No. CP04-386-000
Golden Pass Pipeline LP
Docket Nos. CP04-400-000,
CP04-401-000, and CP04-402-000

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this final environmental impact statement (EIS) on the construction and operation of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal and natural gas pipeline facilities (referred to as the Golden Pass LNG Terminal and Pipeline Project or Project) as proposed by Golden Pass LNG Terminal LP and Golden Pass Pipeline LP (collectively Golden Pass).

The final EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The staff concludes that approval of the Golden Pass LNG Terminal and Pipeline Project, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact. The final EIS evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives, alternative sites for the LNG import terminal, and pipeline alternatives.

The purpose of the Golden Pass LNG Terminal and Pipeline Project is to provide the facilities necessary to meet growing demand for natural gas in the United States by providing a reliable supply of natural gas and access to worldwide natural gas reserves. Golden Pass' proposed facilities would be constructed in two phases and would ultimately provide an average of 2.0 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas to the existing pipeline infrastructure in Texas and Louisiana, and to potential industrial and other end-users including the ExxonMobil Beaumont Refinery in Port Arthur, Texas.

The final EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in Jefferson, Orange, and Newton Counties, Texas and Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana:

- a new protected marine terminal basin connected to the Port Arthur Channel that would include a ship maneuvering area, two protected berths, and unloading facilities capable of accommodating up to 200 LNG ships per year;

- a total of five all-metal, double-walled, full containment LNG storage tanks, each with a nominal working volume of approximately 155,000 cubic meters (975,000 barrels) and each with secondary containment dikes to contain 110 percent of the gross tank volume;
- a total of ten shell-and-tube vaporizers, using a closed loop circulating solution and selective catalytic reduction to reduce regulated pollutants;
- associated LNG storage and vaporization facilities, including administrative, storage, and maintenance buildings, access roads, and a waterline;
- a pipeline system comprised of 77.8 miles of 36-inch-diameter mainline, 42.8 miles of 36-inch-diameter loop, and 1.8 miles of 24-inch-diameter lateral; and
- associated ancillary pipeline facilities, including interconnections with up to 10 existing interstate and intrastate pipeline systems, and the ExxonMobil Beaumont Refinery.

The final EIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for distribution and public inspection at:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch
888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8371

A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference identified above. In addition, copies of the final EIS have been mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; public interest groups; individuals and affected landowners who requested a copy of the EIS; and parties to these proceedings.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing the NEPA, no agency decision on a proposed action may be made until 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of availability of the final EIS. However, the CEQ regulations provide an exception to this rule when an agency decision is subject to a formal internal appeal process that allows other agencies or the public to make their views known. In such cases, the agency decision may be made at the same time as the notice of the final EIS is published, allowing both periods to run concurrently. Should the Commission authorize the proposed Project, it would be subject to a 30-day rehearing period.

Additional information about the Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at **1-866-208-FERC** or on the FERC internet website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Click on the "eLibrary" link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY at (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link on the FERC Internet website also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

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Secretary