

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:  
OEP/DG2E/Gas 3  
Bradwood Landing LLC  
NorthernStar Energy LLC  
Docket Nos. CP06-365-000,  
CP06-366-00, et al.

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

The environmental staffs of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission), U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Coast Guard (Coast Guard), and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), collectively referred to as the Agency Staffs, has prepared this draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the construction and operation of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal and natural gas pipeline facilities, referred to as the Bradwood Landing Project, proposed by Bradwood Landing LLC and NorthernStar Energy LLC (collectively referred to as NorthernStar) in the above-referenced dockets.

This draft EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Agency Staffs conclude that the Bradwood Landing Project has the potential for limited significant environmental impacts. However, if the project is constructed and operated according to applicable laws and regulations, and with implementation of NorthernStar's proposed mitigation measures, and additional measures recommended by the Agency Staffs, we<sup>1</sup> believe that environmental impacts would be substantially reduced.

The FERC is the lead federal agency for the purposes of compliance with the NEPA, and in accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The FERC is responsible for authorizing the project under Sections 3 and 7 of the Natural Gas Act. The Commission will use this EIS to consider the environmental impacts that could result if the project is authorized. The COE and Coast Guard are cooperating agencies for the development of this EIS. The COE is participating as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS because the project would require permits pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 United States Code (USC) 1344) and section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 403). The Coast Guard will consider issuing a Letter of Recommendation (LOR) under its regulations at Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 127.009 regarding the suitability of the waterway for LNG marine traffic.

After notice of the final EIS is published by the EPA, the COE would issue its own Record of Decision (ROD) adopting the EIS. The ROD would include the COE's section 404(b)(1) analysis. After issuance of the ROD, the COE could issue the section 404 and section 10 permits.

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<sup>1</sup> The terms "we," "us," or "our," refer to the environmental staff at the FERC's Office of Energy Projects.

The Coast Guard's safety and security assessment is documented in its Waterway Suitability Report (WSR). The LOR, which will be based on the Coast Guard's WSR, is an official determination regarding the suitability of the waterway to handle LNG marine traffic. The Coast Guard intends to adopt all or portions of this EIS to serve as the analysis it needs to support its LOR and comply with the NEPA. The LOR will not be issued until after the NEPA process has been completed.

The DOT is participating as a cooperating agency in accordance with an interagency agreement between the DOT, the FERC, and Coast Guard. The DOT is responsible for ensuring the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's transportation system, and for providing oversight for oil and natural gas pipeline, pursuant to the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 USC 1671 et seq.) and the Hazardous Liquids Pipeline Safety Act (49 USC 2001 et seq.). The DOT has authority to enforce safety regulations and standards for the LNG terminal beginning at the last valve before the storage tanks and the design and operation of the natural gas sendout pipeline (under 49 USC 601, and 49 CFR Parts 192 and 193).

Cowlitz County has been designated the lead agency under Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and is responsible for compliance with SEPA procedural requirements as well as for compiling and assessing information on the environmental aspects of the proposal for all agencies with jurisdiction in Washington. NEPA documents may be used to meet SEPA requirements if the requirements of the State of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-610 and 197-11-630 are met. Cowlitz County could adopt this EIS, if its independent review confirms that the document meets the county's environmental review standards.

The purpose of the Bradwood Landing Project is to provide a new source of natural gas to the Pacific Northwest through importing LNG. LNG is natural gas that has been turned into a liquid state by cooling it to about -260 degrees Fahrenheit to reduce its volume for transport across oceans from its point of origin in specially designed ships. NorthernStar would vaporize the LNG back into natural gas at its proposed terminal and provide up to 1.3 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas to the region through its sendout pipeline and interconnects at two industrial facilities, an intrastate pipeline, and an interstate pipeline system.

The draft EIS addresses the potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of the following facilities located at the proposed Bradwood Landing LNG terminal, at Columbia River Mile 38, in Clatsop County, Oregon:

- a dredged 58-acre maneuvering area off the federally-maintained Columbia River navigation channel, and a single ship berth capable of receiving and unloading LNG ships with cargo capacities ranging from 100,000 to 200,000 cubic meters;
- a set of four 16-inch-diameter LNG unloading arms at the berth, and a 1,240-foot-long 32-inch-diameter cryogenic LNG transfer pipeline and 6-inch-diameter LNG recirculation cooldown pipeline from the berth to the storage tanks;
- two 160,000 m<sup>3</sup> insulated LNG storage tanks;
- a vapor handling system and vaporization equipment, including seven submerged combustion vaporizers capable of regasifying the LNG for sendout through a transfer meter station; and
- ancillary utilities, service buildings, and associated safety and security systems;

The draft EIS also addresses the potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of NorthernStar's proposed pipeline and associated facilities, including:

- a 36.3-mile-long underground, high-pressure steel sendout pipeline consisting of approximately 18.9 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Clatsop and Columbia Counties, Oregon and 17.4 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline in Columbia County, Oregon and Cowlitz County, Washington; and
- associated facilities, including five meter and regulation stations, four interconnects, two pig<sup>2</sup> launchers, and two pig receivers.

The analysis includes an assessment of the potential environmental impacts associated with project-related LNG marine traffic in the waterway from the territorial seas until moored at the proposed LNG terminal. This draft EIS also evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives, alternative LNG terminal locations and site configurations, major pipeline route alternatives, minor pipeline route variations, dredge material placement alternatives, and the Coast Guard's alternatives to issuing an LOR.

### **Comment Procedures and Public Meetings**

Any person wishing to comment on the draft EIS may do so. **Please note that the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments.** See 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the FERC's Internet website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the eFiling link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can submit comments, you will need to create a free account by clicking on "Sign-up" under "New User." You will be asked to select the type of submission you are making. This type of submission is considered a "Comment on Filing." **Comments submitted electronically must be submitted by December 24, 2007.**

If you wish to mail comments on the draft EIS, please mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before **December 24, 2007. Please carefully follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:**

- Send an **original and two copies** of your comments to:  
  
Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426
- Reference Docket No. CP06-365-000 et al. on the original and both copies; and
- Label one copy of your comments for the attention of Gas Branch 3, PJ11.3.

After comments on the draft EIS are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the EIS text, a final EIS will be published and distributed. The final EIS will contain the Agency Staffs' responses to timely comments received on the draft EIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission and the cooperating agencies but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

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<sup>2</sup> A pig is an internal tool used to clean and dry a pipeline and/or to inspect it for damage or corrosion.

Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this draft EIS. You must file your request to intervene as specified above.<sup>3</sup> **You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.**

The draft 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 Room  
888 First Street N.E., Room 2A  
Washington, DC 20426  
(202) 502-8371

A limited number of copies of the draft EIS are available from the FERC's Public Reference Room, identified above. This draft EIS is also available for public viewing on the FERC's Internet website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov). In addition, copies of the draft EIS have been mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; Indian tribes and Native American organizations with an interest in the project area; interveners, regional environmental organizations and public interest groups; affected landowners; local libraries and newspapers; and other interested parties.

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 (e.g., CP06-365). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at: [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto: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.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription that allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. To register for this service, go to the eSubscription link on the FERC Internet website.

Kimberly D. Bose,  
Secretary

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<sup>3</sup> Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.