

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:

OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 3
Floridian Natural Gas Storage Company LLC
Docket No. CP08-13-000

FERC/EIS 0221

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by the Floridian Natural Gas Storage Company LLC (FGS) under the above-referenced docket. FGS's proposed Floridian Gas Storage Project (Project) would be located approximately two miles north of the unincorporated municipality of Indiantown in Martin County, Florida.

The Draft EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that the proposed Project, with the appropriate mitigation measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impacts.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are cooperating agencies for the development of this EIS. A cooperating agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved with the proposal and is involved in the NEPA analysis.

The general purpose of the proposed Project is to respond to the growing demand for natural gas and natural gas infrastructure in the United States, and, more specifically, in Florida. The Project would enhance access to additional, competitively-priced supplies of natural gas by providing liquefaction, storage, and vaporization services to customers in Florida and the southeastern United States.

The Draft EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of construction and operation of the facilities listed below.

FGS proposes to construct and operate:

- an approximately 53.1 acre liquefied natural gas storage facility;
- an approximately 4-mile-long, 12-inch-diameter receiving pipeline to interconnect with and receive natural gas from the Gulfstream and/or Florida Power & Light (FPL) pipelines;
- an approximately 4-mile-long, 24-inch-diameter sendout pipeline that would parallel the 12-inch pipeline and interconnect with and deliver natural gas from the storage facility to the Gulfstream and the FPL lateral pipelines;
- interconnection points with the Gulfstream pipeline at milepost (MP) 4.05 and with the FPL lateral at MP 4.18; and
- a metering and regulating station.

FGS proposes to have the facilities installed and operational within 36 months of commencing construction; however, based on market conditions at the time of construction, the storage facility construction may be separated into two phases.

The Draft EIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for 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 Public Reference Room identified above. In addition, CD-ROM copies of the Draft EIS have been mailed to affected landowners; various Federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; local libraries and newspapers; intervenors; and other individuals that expressed an interest in the proposed Project. Hard-copies of the Draft EIS have also been mailed to those who requested that format.

Comment Procedures and Public Meetings

Any person wishing to comment on the Draft EIS may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that the Commission receives your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded.

- **Send an Original and two copies of your comments to:**

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20002

- Reference Docket No. **CP08-13-000**
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of **Gas Branch 3**
- **Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before May 5, 2008**

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments, interventions or protests to this proceeding. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account, which can be created by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. This filing is considered a "Comment on Filing."

In lieu of or in addition to sending written comments, you are invited to attend the public comment meeting the FERC will conduct in the Project area to receive comments on the Draft EIS. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. (EST) at the Indiantown Civic Center, 15675 SW Osceola Street, Indiantown, FL 34956 (772-597-2886).

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the Draft EIS. Transcripts of the meeting will be prepared and placed in the public file. After the comments are reviewed, significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the Draft EIS, a Final EIS will be published and distributed by the FERC staff. The Final EIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments received on the Draft EIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission 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). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this Draft EIS. You must file your request to intervene as specified above.¹ **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:

¹ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Public Reference Room
888 First Street NE, Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 208-1371

CD-ROM copies of the Draft EIS have been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals and affected landowners who requested a copy of the Draft EIS or provided comments during scoping; libraries and newspapers in the Project area; and parties to this proceeding. Hard copy versions of the Draft EIS were mailed to those specifically requesting them. A limited number of hard copies and CD-ROMs are available from the Public Reference Room identified above.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC (3372) or on the FERC Internet website (<http://www.ferc.gov>). Using the "eLibrary link," select "General Search" and enter the project docket number excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP08-13) 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 TTY (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 rule makings.

In addition, the FERC 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 <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary