

- Construct a bioengineered permanent stabilization structure on the north bank;

- Construct permanent habitat enhancement structures near the south bank.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are 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) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

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

- Send two copies of your comments to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Gas Group 2, PJ11.2;
- Reference Docket No. CP00-141-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before October 23, 2000.

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.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-0004 or on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the

RIMS help line can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" links on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS help line can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-24765 Filed 9-26-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-580-002]

Southern LNG Inc.; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Sendout Modification Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

September 21, 2000.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Sendout Modification Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Southern LNG Inc. (Southern LNG) on Elba Island in Chatham County, Georgia.¹ The project involves limited modifications to the sendout system at Southern LNG's existing, certificated liquefied natural gas (LNG) marine import terminal (Elba Island Terminal). This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Background

In 1972, in Docket No. CP71-264, the Federal Power Commission (FERC's predecessor) authorized Southern Energy Company (Southern LNG's predecessor), to construct and operate the Elba Island Terminal. Southern LNG initiated construction in 1973. The terminal encompasses about 140 acres on the 840-acre Elba Island in an estuary of the Savannah River. Elba Island lies approximately 8 miles upstream of the river's discharge into the Atlantic Ocean

¹ Southern LNG's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

and approximately 5 miles downstream from Savannah, Georgia. The existing authorized facilities at the Elba Island Terminal include the following:

- LNG unloading facilities, including marine berth, pier, and arms for unloading LNG from vessels;
- LNG storage facilities, including three double-wall storage tanks, each with the capacity of 400,000 barrels (four billion cubic feet vaporized equivalent);
- LNG sendout facilities, including pumps and vaporizers with a maximum capacity of 540 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd);
- Boil-off compressors;
- Pressure relief, vent, and disposal systems;
- Spill containment facilities, including a 400,000-barrel capacity main spill containment for each LNG storage tank; and
- Fire water system sourced from a fresh-water pond and river water.

Southern LNG commenced operation in July, 1978. Between 1978 to 1980, the Elba Island Terminal was used to import LNG purchased from El Paso Algeria Corporation and delivered by cryogenic tankers. In April, 1980, Southern LNG was unable to continue importation of LNG due to economic considerations.

After LNG shipments were discontinued, Southern LNG retained an inventory of LNG through April, 1982.

Since 1982, the Elba Island Terminal has been maintained in a limited state of readiness to ensure that the plant could be safely and reliably reactivated. An ongoing preventative maintenance program has been in place since that time and needed repairs, replacements, enhancements and additions have been identified for implementing during the recommissioning process.

On July 13, 1999, Southern LNG filed an application with the Commission in Docket No. CP99-580-000, to recommission the Elba Island Terminal for the purpose of providing open-access service to shippers desiring to contract for receipt, storage, and vaporization of LNG and delivery of vaporized LNG at the existing point of interconnect with the interstate pipeline of Southern Natural. The project involved returning Southern LNG's existing, certificated Elba Island Terminal to active service. Southern LNG stated that the storage and vaporization facilities would not be significantly altered, replaced or relocated, and that the storage and throughput capacity of the facilities would remain the same as originally placed in service in 1978.

In addition, in Docket No. CP99-579-000, Southern LNG requested Section 3

authorization under Subpart B of Part 153 of the Commission's regulations for siting of natural gas import facilities. This application was directly related to Southern LNG's proposal described above in Docket No. CP99-580-000.

On August 9, 1999, we² issued a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Elba Island Terminal Recommissioning Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues*. On January 10, 2000, we issued a *Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Elba Island Terminal Recommissioning Project*. On March 16, 2000, the Commission issued an *Order Issuing Certificate, Section 3 Authorization, and Denying Request for Rehearing* (Order).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Southern LNG proposes to amend the authorizations issued in the Commission's March 16, 2000 Order. Southern LNG proposes limited modifications to the sendout system at the Elba Island Terminal. The sendout modifications would increase the peak vaporization from 540 MMcfd to 675 MMcfd and allow control of the heating value of vaporized LNG. The sendout modifications are required to enhance the flexibility and reliability of firm service by enabling the terminal to import LNG from various foreign production areas. These LNG supplies may have varying heating values, which may exceed the maximum in Southern LNG's tariff of 1,075 British thermal units per standard cubic foot (Btu/scf). The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.³

The Sendout Modifications Project would include the following:

- Replacement of the existing five 108 MMcfd Ryan Industries LNG submerged combustion vaporizers with five 135 MMcfd state-of-the-art submerged combustion water bath heaters;
- Install an additional secondary LNG pump to supply additional LNG for the increased capacity of the vaporizers; and
- Install nitrogen or air injection facilities to control heating value of vaporized LNG. Injection of 2 percent nitrogen or 3.8 percent air into the sendout stream would allow receipt of LNG with a heating value of 1,090 or 1,117 Btu/scf, respectively.

² "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Office of Energy Projects.

³ The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

Land Requirements for Construction

No additional land would be required by Southern LNG's proposal. All work would occur within previously disturbed and currently maintained areas. None of the proposed facilities would result in substantial changes to the appearance or previous function of the existing facilities.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air Quality and noise
- Public safety

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section below.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Gas Group I, PJ-11.1;
- Reference Docket No. CP99-580-002; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before October 23, 2000.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenors play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-24764 Filed 9-26-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6877-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request, Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources (NSPS) Smelters Including: Brass and Bronze; Copper Smelters; Zinc Smelters; Lead Smelters; Aluminum; Ferroalloy

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources (NSPS) Smelters including Secondary Brass and Bronze Production Plants, Part 60, Subpart M; Primary Copper Smelter, Subpart P; Primary Zinc Smelters, Subpart Q; Primary Lead Smelters, Subpart R; Primary Aluminum Reduction Plants, Subpart S; Ferroalloy Production Facilities, Subpart Z; OMB No. 2060-0110; EPA No. 1604.06; expiration date is November 30, 2000. This ICR is a consolidation of four previously separate ICRs. The ICR describes the nature of the information

collection and its expected burden and cost; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 27, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, referencing EPA ICR No.1604.06 and OMB Control No. 2060-0110, to the following addresses: Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Collection Strategies Division (Mail Code 2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; and to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the ICR contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740, by E-Mail at Farmer.Sandy@epamail.epa.gov or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No.1604.06. For technical questions about the ICR, please contact: Deborah Thomas (2223-A).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: New Source Performance Standards for Smelters (40 CFR part 60), including: Brass and Bronze, Subpart M; Copper, Subpart P; Zinc, Subpart Q; Lead, Subpart R; Aluminum, Subpart S; Ferroalloy, Subpart Z; OMB Control No. 2060-0110; EPA ICR No.1604.06, expiration 11/30/2000. This is a request for an extension of 2 currently approved collections and a reinstatement of 2 lapsed collections.

Abstract: New Source Performance Standards for Secondary Brass and Bronze Production Plants, Primary Copper, Lead, and Zinc Smelters, Aluminum Reduction, and Ferroalloy Production Plants were developed to ensure that air emissions from these facilities do not cause ambient concentrations of particulate matter and certain gases to exceed levels that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health and the environment. Owners or operators of all affected facilities subject to NSPS must notify EPA of construction, modification, anticipated and actual startup dates, the initial performance test and results, demonstration of a continuous monitoring system (except for brass and bronze facilities), and any physical or operational change that may increase the emission rate. In addition, primary copper, lead, and zinc smelters and ferroalloy plants are required to semiannually report excess emissions and aluminum reduction plants must report excess emissions in each monthly or annual performance test. Ferroalloy

plants must also report on any product change. Facilities must maintain records of performance test results, startups, shutdowns, and malfunctions. Primary smelters, aluminum reduction and ferroalloy production plants have additional daily or monthly recordkeeping requirements for certain operating parameters. In order to ensure compliance with the standards, adequate recordkeeping and reporting is necessary. This information enables the Agency to: (1) Identify the sources subject to the standard; (2) ensure initial compliance with emission limits; and (3) verify continuous compliance with the standard. Reporting and recordkeeping requirements on the part of the respondent are mandatory under section 114 of the Clean Air Act as amended and 40 CFR part 60. All reports are sent to the delegated State or Local authority. In the event that there is no such delegated authority, the reports are sent directly to the EPA Regional Office. All information submitted to the Agency for which a claim of confidentiality is made will be safeguarded according to the Agency policies set forth in Title 40, Chapter 1, part 2, subpart B—Confidentiality of Business Information (see 40 CFR part 2; 41 FR 36902, September 1, 1976; amended by 43 FR 39999, September 8, 1978; 43 FR 42251, September 28, 1978; 44 FR 17674, March 23, 1979).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15. The **Federal Register** document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on October 29, 1999 (64 FR 58398); no comments were received.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average two hours per response. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of