

Hughes, Environmental Resources Section; U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington; 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403; telephone: 910-251-4635; email: [Emily.b.hughes@usace.army.mil](mailto:Emily.b.hughes@usace.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** (a) Background. The existing Wilmington Harbor federal navigation channel originates offshore and extends approximately 38 miles through the Atlantic Ocean and up the Cape Fear River to the City of Wilmington, NC where it services the Port of Wilmington. The existing project provides for a channel -44 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) through the ocean bar and entrance channel, changing to -42 feet (MLLW) extending to just downstream of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. The Port of Wilmington has experienced significant increases in cargo volume and in the size of vessels calling at the port since the last major channel improvements were completed by the USACE under the Wilmington Harbor 1996 WRDA Project. Due to expansion of the Panama Canal and navigation improvement projects at all other major U.S. East Coast ports, the U.S. East Coast to Asia shipping alliances are currently transitioning to vessels that are substantially larger and more economically efficient than the vessels that the -42-foot channel was designed to accommodate.

Currently authorized channel dimensions at Wilmington Harbor are impacting trade at the Port of Wilmington and are projected to have a greater detrimental impact on trade in the future as ocean carriers continue to transition to larger containerships.

**Purpose.** The purpose of the proposed project is to accommodate larger cargo vessels and improve the efficiency of cargo vessel operations at Wilmington Harbor and the Port of Wilmington. The proposed navigation improvements would enable the Port of Wilmington to continue as a port-of-call for shipping alliances with direct service to Asian markets.

(b) Alternatives. Structural and non-structural measures are being evaluated to meet planning objectives. Measures that contribute to meeting the planning objectives will be combined to develop alternative plans. Potential harbor improvements under consideration include deepening the existing federal navigational channel to the Port of Wilmington, extending the ocean entrance channel farther offshore, and widening channels in the Cape Fear River where needed. The range of depths being considered is from -44 feet

to -48 feet. Under the No Action alternative, no improvements would be made to the Wilmington Harbor project.

(c) Environmental Impacts. Environmental impacts to be addressed in the DEIS include, but are not limited to: (1) Endangered and threatened species; (2) Marine and estuarine resources; (3) Beach and dune resources; (4) Fish and wildlife and their habitats; (5) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH); (6) Salinity and tidal amplitude; (7) Water quality; (8) Air quality; (9) Socioeconomic resources; (10) Cultural resources; (11) Groundwater; (12) Shoreline erosion; (13) Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW); (14) Noise; and (15) Socioeconomics.

(d) Scoping. All private parties and Federal, State, and local agencies having an interest in the study are invited to comment at this time. A scoping letter requesting comments on the study will be sent to all known interested parties. All interested parties will be invited to attend a public scoping meeting to be held in Wilmington, NC in September 2019. All comments received as a result of this NOI, the scoping letter, and the scoping meeting will be considered in the preparation of the DEIS.

(e) Authority. Studies of potential navigation improvements to the Wilmington Harbor navigation channel are being conducted under the authority granted by Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-662), as amended. Section 203 of WRDA 86, as amended, states:

*Sec 203. Studies of Projects by Non-Federal Interests.*

Public Law 99-662, Nov. 17, 1986. 33 U.S.C. 2231

(a) SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY.

(1) In general. A non-Federal interest may on its own undertake a feasibility study of a proposed water resources development project and submit the study to the Secretary.

(2) Guidelines. To assist non-Federal interests, the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, issue guidelines for feasibility studies of water resources development projects to provide sufficient information for the formulation of studies.

(b) REVIEW BY SECRETARY—The Secretary shall review each feasibility study received under subsection (a) (1) for the purpose of determining whether or not the study, and the process under which the study was developed, each comply with Federal laws and regulations applicable to feasibility studies of water resources development projects.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS—Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of a feasibility study of a project under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of representatives a report that describes.

(1) The results of the Secretary's review of the study under subsection (b), including a determination of whether the project is feasible;

(2) Any recommendations the Secretary may have concerning the plan or design of the project; and

(3) Any conditions the Secretary may require for construction of the project.

Dated: September 5, 2019.

**R.D. James,**

*Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Civil Works).*

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**BILLING CODE 3720-58-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Office of Science, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee. The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** October 2, 2019; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Hilton Washington DC/ Rockville Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Samuel J. Barish, Acting Designated Federal Officer, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (FES); U.S. Department of Energy; Office of Science; 1000 Independence Avenue SW; Washington, DC 20585; Telephone: (301) 903-2917 or email at: [sam.barish@science.doe.gov](mailto:sam.barish@science.doe.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is to provide advice on a continuing basis to the Director, Office of Science of the Department of Energy, on the many complex scientific and technical issues that arise in the development and implementation of the fusion energy sciences program.

*Tentative Agenda Items:*

- FES perspective
- FES community: status of its long-range strategic planning activity

- Continuing FESAC discussions on a long-range strategic plan for the FES program
- NAS report on sexual harassment of women
- Public comment
- Adjourn

*Note:* Remote attendance of the FESAC meeting will be possible via Zoom. Instructions will be posted on the FESAC website: <https://science.osti.gov/fes/fesac/Meetings> prior to the meeting and can also be obtained by contacting Dr. Barish by email: [sam.barish@science.doe.gov](mailto:sam.barish@science.doe.gov) or by telephone: (301) 903-2917.

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. If you would like to file a written statement with the Committee, you may do so either before or after the meeting. If you would like to make an oral statement regarding any of the items on the agenda, you should contact Dr. Barish at (301) 903-1233 (fax) or [sam.barish@science.doe.gov](mailto:sam.barish@science.doe.gov) (email). Reasonable provision will be made to include the scheduled oral statements during the Public Comment time on the agenda. The Chairperson of the Committee will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Public comment will follow the 10-minute rule.

*Minutes:* The minutes of the meeting will be available for public review and copying within 30 days on the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee website: <http://science.energy.gov/fes/fesac/>.

Signed in Washington, DC, on September 6, 2019.

**LaTanya Butler,**

*Deputy Committee Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. PF19-6-000]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Planned Louisiana Connector Extension Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Sessions: Port Arthur Pipeline, LLC

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Louisiana Connector Extension Project involving

construction and operation of facilities by Port Arthur Pipeline, LLC (PAPL) in Cameron, Calcasieu, Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline, St. Landry, Rapides, Grant, La Salle, Catahoula, Franklin, and Richland Parishes, Louisiana and in Jefferson and Orange Counties, Texas. The Commission will use this EIS in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies about issues regarding the project. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires the Commission to discover concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as “scoping.” The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EIS on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the EIS. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on October 7, 2019.

You can make a difference by submitting your specific comments or concerns about the project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EIS. Commission staff will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EIS.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on June 21, 2019, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. PF19-6-000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission’s current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the planned facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable

easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if you and the company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled ‘An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?’ is available for viewing on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) at <https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/gas/gas.pdf>. This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission’s proceedings.

#### Public Participation

The Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which makes it easy to stay informed of all issuances and submittals regarding the dockets/projects to which you subscribe. These instant email notifications are the fastest way to receive notification and provide a link to the document files which can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings. To sign up go to [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp).

For your convenience, there are four methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov). Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the *eComment* feature, which is located on the Commission’s website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to *Documents and Filings*. Using *eComment* is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the *eFiling* feature, which is located on the Commission’s website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to *Documents and Filings*. With *eFiling*, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New *eFiling* users must first create an account by clicking on “*eRegister*.” You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; a comment on a particular project is considered a “*Comment on a Filing*”;