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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING	
CORPUS CHRISTI LNG, L.P.	CP04-37-000
CHENIERE CORPUS CHRISTI PIPELINE COMPANY	CP04-44-000
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT	CP04-45-000
-----x	CP04-46-000

Wednesday, December 15, 2004
Portland Community Center
2000 Billy G. Webb Drive
Portland, Texas

The meeting convened at 7:08 p.m.

PAUL D. FRIEDMAN, Facilitator

PRESENTERS:

KEITH M. MEYER, President

Cheniere LNG Inc.

JOHN SCOTT

LAURA DE LA FLOR

PATRICIA BARRY

Tetra Tech FW, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. FRIEDMAN: Good evening, ladies and
3 gentlemen. My name is Paul Friedman. I work at a place
4 called the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also
5 called the F-E-R-C -- FERC or the Commission -- in
6 Washington, D.C.

7 This is a public meeting to take comments on
8 the draft environmental impact statement -- or EIS --
9 issued by the FERC for the Corpus -- for the Cheniere
10 Corpus Christi LNG Project. We issued this on November
11 18, 2004.

12 Let the record show that this public meeting
13 began at -- my watch says 7:08 p.m., Wednesday, December
14 15, 2004, at the Portland Community Center, 2000 Billy G.
15 Webb Drive, Portland, Texas.

16 This document was put together by the Federal
17 Energy Regulatory Commission. I am the environmental team
18 leader for that project. On behalf of the FERC I would
19 like to welcome you all here tonight.

20 The FERC, for those of you who do not know, is
21 an independent federal government agency. We regulate the
22 interstate transportation of electricity, hydropower, and
23 natural gas.

24 On December 22, 2003, Corpus Christi LNG, L.P.
25 filed an application with the FERC for its LNG terminal --

1 LNG stands for liquified natural gas -- under Section 3 of
2 the Natural Gas Act -- or NGA _ in FERC Docket Number
3 CP04-37 et. al. So those of you who are sending us
4 written comments please make certain that you include the
5 docket number so that the comments get routed to me.

6 On the same day, also on December 22, 2003,
7 Cheniere Corpus Christi Pipeline Company filed
8 applications with the FERC for a related sendout pipeline
9 and blanket authorizations under Section 7 of the NGA in
10 Dockets Number CP04-44, -45, and -46. Both the pipeline
11 company and the LNG company are subsidiaries of Cheniere
12 Energy, and we refer to them simply as Cheniere.

13 The Commission would decide if authorization of
14 Cheniere Corpus Christi LNG Project would be within the
15 public convenience and necessity. As part of its
16 decision-making process the Commission must consider the
17 environmental impacts of the project and comply with the
18 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. We
19 also refer to that as NEPA.

20 In order to comply with the NEPA we produced
21 this draft EIS so that the public has an opportunity to
22 see what is proposed before us. The production of this
23 EIS was a collaborative effort involving the FERC staff, a
24 third-party contractor, and cooperating agencies.

25 Let me introduce to you some of the people who

1 played major roles in producing the EIS. Our third-party
2 contractor was Tetra Tech. We have John Scott and
3 Patricia Barry and Laura de la Flor who is out in the
4 front representing Tetra Tech. They all wrote sections in
5 this document.

6 The federal agencies which cooperated in the
7 production of this EIS include the U.S. Army Corps of
8 Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S.
9 Coast Guard, the National Marine Fisheries Services, and
10 the U.S. Department of Transportation.

11 A cooperative agency has jurisdiction by law or
12 special expertise related to project-specific
13 environmental impacts, and those agencies may adopt the
14 EIS to meet their own obligations for compliance with the
15 NEPA. We also consider cooperative agencies and Tetra
16 Tech to be an extension of FERC staff.

17 Do we have anyone representing our cooperating
18 agencies here tonight? Anyone from Fish and Wildlife?
19 Anyone from the Coast Guard? No?

20 The FERC is the lead federal agency for the
21 project, and we took the lead in producing the EIS. We
22 issued a notice of availability for -- or an NOA -- for
23 the draft EIS on November 18, 2004, which gave a closing
24 date for comments as January 4, 2005.

25 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency -- or

1 EPA -- noticed our draft EIS in the Federal Register on
2 November 26, 2004, and indicated that the comment period
3 would end on January 10, 2005. Therefore, we will
4 consider all comments received on or before January 10 to
5 be timely.

6 We mailed over 300 copies of the draft EIS to
7 various federal representatives and agencies, to state and
8 local governmental agencies, landowners, and interested
9 members of the public. In addition, copies were sent to
10 local newspapers and libraries here in Corpus Christi,
11 Portland, Ingleside, Aransas Pass, Taft, and Sinton.

12 Copies of the draft EIS are also available at
13 the public reference room at the Federal Energy Regulatory
14 Commission in Washington, D.C., and it may be viewed
15 electronically on the FERC internet website at
16 www.FERC.gov under the E-Library link. Plus, I brought a
17 few some extra copies -- they're here at the front
18 table -- with me in case you didn't get one and want to
19 see one.

20 For those of you who have read our NOA or the
21 draft EIS you know that the project would consist of the
22 following key elements.

23 A liquified natural gas import terminal,
24 storage, and vaporization and sendout facility located on
25 the north shore of Corpus Christi Bay at the western end

1 of the La Quinta Ship Channel next to the Sherwin Alumina
2 Plant south of Gregory and east of Portland, Texas.

3 A 23-mile long, 48-inch diameter steel
4 underground natural gas pipeline capable of transporting
5 approximately 2.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas per
6 day extending from the LNG terminal to north of Sinton,
7 Texas, with interconnections with eight existing
8 intrastate and interstate natural gas pipelines.

9 At this time I'd like to have Keith Meyer come
10 up, introduce himself and his company, and talk a little
11 bit about this project from their perspective.

12 MR. MEYER: Thank you, Paul, and thank you all
13 for coming out tonight. It's to see all of you. I see a
14 lot of familiar faces. Seems like it's been a while since
15 I've addressed a group in Corpus Christi, but it's good to
16 be here.

17 I've got with me today -- and I've only got a
18 couple of minutes, so I'll be brief. Paul did ask me
19 though to also speak about the project just a little bit,
20 so I'm going to add that onto my thank you time. But I've
21 got a couple of people I want to just recognize here as
22 well.

23 Darren Granger -- I think you've -- a lot of
24 you have met. He's in charge of our technical side.
25 Ellen Hatfield's going to be our project manager. Bill

1 English is our point person for the project. Patricia
2 Outtrim in front of -- is -- heads up our governmental
3 affairs and community affairs.

4 I know that those folks have seen you quite a
5 bit over the last several months and last year. I
6 appreciate your support and your welcoming them.

7 Briefly, the project is a, as Paul had
8 mentioned, a liquified natural gas receiving facility.
9 Liquified natural gas is just methane that's been
10 liquified. It's been super cooled to a -260 degrees.
11 It's put in a ship, sent across the water, received in our
12 facility. We offload the ship, store the LNG, and then
13 turn it back into natural gas and put it into the existing
14 pipelines.

15 Essentially, LNG is needed now because this
16 nation has a natural gas supply shortage. That's the
17 reason that we have high natural gas prices. That's part
18 of the reason we have high electric prices. Our economy
19 is suffering under the weight of these high energy prices.

20 So we've got people in the highest levels of
21 the administration in Washington -- people like George
22 Bush himself, the heads of DOE, and the -- Alan Greenspan
23 as well, saying this nation needs imported supplies of
24 natural gas. This nation needs these LNG receiving
25 terminals as quickly as possible.

1 We filed this terminal a year ago. We've been
2 working in the community for over there years now. Corpus
3 Christi is one of the few locations that is really
4 suitable for an LNG receiving terminal. There are a
5 number of critical factors that go into the -- what makes
6 a good site for LNG -- deepwater channel is critical.
7 Existing pipelines -- critical. Large site remote from
8 populations -- critical.

9 But probably the most important thing -- and
10 certainly a requirement for Cheniere _ is the community
11 support. And that's what we have here in Corpus Christi,
12 and that is what is unique about Corpus Christi in terms
13 of a lot of the other projects that have been proposed.

14 It has been your support -- the support at the
15 local level -- that has given us the confidence to go to
16 Austin, Texas, and request the state support. And we
17 pushed through a Texas Senate resolution that had the
18 state of Texas embracing LNG.

19 It was with that state support and that local
20 support that we could confidently go to Washington with a
21 very simple and clear message. And that message is
22 recognizing that this nation and this economy needs
23 imported LNG, then the request is, please, expedite the
24 approval of those projects in communities that want them.
25 That means expedite the approval of this Corpus Christi

1 facility.

2 I want to thank you again very much for the
3 support. Thank you for your patience as well. We are
4 rounding the home stretch. The Federal Energy Regulatory
5 Commission has put together a very comprehensive work, as
6 Paul has shown you. They've left no stone unturned to
7 make sure this is a very safe facility.

8 Comprehensive work -- and I'll tell you, to
9 save you a little bit of reading -- and I'll take a little
10 liberty here. To me, the conclusion of the report
11 basically is summed up in words that really Pat Suter and
12 the Sierra Club wrote over a year ago in their letter to
13 FERC -- and that is that this site is the best site in the
14 area for an LNG facility and will have minimal
15 environmental impact.

16 So, with that, again, we're on the home
17 stretch. Bear with us. We're going to try to get this
18 process wrapped up here -- the federal approval process.
19 And we look forward to a very, very active and happy new
20 year next year. Thank you very much.

21 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Meyer. I want to
22 clarify that Cheniere is the proponent for this project
23 and that the FERC is not a sponsor. Sometimes the public
24 becomes confused between the company proposing the project
25 and the federal government's role.

1 We are a regulatory body. We don't take sides
2 in whether or not we're in favor of the projects. Our
3 goal -- my goal as the environmental project manager is to
4 examine the potential environmental impacts of the
5 proposal.

6 FERC is a licensing agency. We take no
7 position until after we have completed a full review of
8 Cheniere's applications. After we have published a final
9 environmental impact statement -- and the FERC staff will
10 then at that time analyze the environmental impacts of the
11 proposed project and the non-environmental issues as well,
12 including markets and rates, before we make our
13 recommendations to the five commissioners who head up our
14 agency. It is those commissioners who will make the final
15 decision about whether or not to authorize this project.

16 If the FERC decides to approve the project the
17 commissioners would issue an order issuing a certificate
18 of public convenience and necessity to Cheniere. That
19 order would include our recommended environmental
20 conditions for the project. The FERC staff will then
21 monitor the project through construction and restoration,
22 performing onsite inspections for compliance with the
23 environmental conditions of the Commission's order.

24 The FERC certificate would convey to Cheniere
25 the power of eminent domain under Section 7H of the

1 Natural Gas Act. However, prior to issuance of the order,
2 Cheniere is free to negotiate and obtain rights-of-way
3 agreements from property owners along the pipeline route.

4 Because the Commission has the responsibility
5 to treat all parties to a proceeding equally we must make
6 certain that our process is open and public. For this
7 reason we are constrained by what are known as ex parte
8 rules. This means that there can be no off-the-record
9 discussions or correspondence between FERC staff and
10 interested parties regarding the merits of this case.
11 Therefore, I urge you to either speak tonight on the
12 record or put your comments in writing with a letter
13 addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, which
14 includes the docket number for this project.

15 You may have noticed that behind me is a court
16 reporter who is transcribing this meeting. This is so
17 that we can have an accurate record of tonight's comments.

18 The FERC has a transcription contract with Ace
19 Federal Reporters, Inc. If you wish to obtain a copy o
20 the transcript prior to its placement in our public files
21 you must make arrangement directly with Ace. They sell
22 copies at 9.70 a page for same day service, 3.18 a page
23 for overnight, and 3.08 a page for next day, and 2.02 a
24 page within five days of this meeting. The transcript
25 will be available to the public at the FERC's public

1 reference room in Washington, D.C. ten days after its
2 receipt from Ace.

3 Let emphasize that this meeting is not a
4 hearing on the merits of this proposal. It is, as I said
5 earlier, a meeting to give you, the public, an opportunity
6 to comment on our draft environmental impact statement.
7 We will address all public comments on the draft in a
8 final environmental impact statement. That final EIS
9 would be produced early next year.

10 I will call up individuals to speak in the
11 order listed on the sign-up sheet. If you would like to
12 present oral comments tonight please make certain to sign
13 a speaker's list at the sign-in table. I believe Laura is
14 still outside, so there is an opportunity.

15 For those of you who are too shy to speak in
16 public we have other ways for you to comment. First, we
17 have written comment forms -- Laura has some forms out
18 there on the table -- which you can fill out and give to
19 us tonight. Second, you may write us a letter. And
20 please address any letters to the Secretary of the FERC,
21 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C., 20426. And don't
22 forget in the docket number -- CP04-37 et. al. You may
23 also file your letters electronically through the FERC
24 internet website at www.ferc.gov using the e-filing link.

25 Before we start to hear from any speakers

1 tonight I suggest we take a short three-minute break.
2 This will give you an opportunity to sign the sign-up list
3 in case you haven't already done so. So we'll take a
4 short break and then I'm going to call up the speakers.
5 Thanks.

6 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

7 MR. FRIEDMAN: Has everyone had an opportunity
8 now, if they wanted to, to sign up on the speaker's list
9 if they hadn't before? If so, I'm going to make that
10 assumption. And I'd like to have everyone sit down. And
11 we're going to start up again.

12 (Pause.)

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: Now is the time for me to open
14 the floor to public discussion and individual comments.
15 To allow adequate time for everyone to speak here tonight
16 who wants to I would like each speaker to please limit to
17 their to about five minutes.

18 I ask that each speaker clearly state their
19 name for the record, spell it if you have to, and identify
20 any organization you may be representing. If you are a
21 landowner along the pipeline route please indicate where
22 your property is located in accordance with milemarks.
23 And the back of the EIS has maps with milemarks on them so
24 you can use that to determine where your property is
25 located by milemark.

1 I'm going to turn this around so you'll have --
2 it's kind of weird that you'll have your back to -- you
3 know what? I'm not. I changed my mind. I think I want
4 you to talk to everyone else. I don't care if your back's
5 to me. I want your face to the public. There we go.

6 The first person here is George Alvarado.

7 MR. ALVARADO: How you doing? I'm the manager
8 of T. P. McCampbell Airport, who is the closest airport to
9 the La Quinta Channel. We're doing great work out there.
10 We have a great airport -- 5,000 feet of runway, visitor
11 facilities. We've already been fueling Darren Granger's
12 aircraft here since February about every week. Okay?

13 And we've been -- we can see as this project --
14 when this project gets going a lot of aircraft traffic
15 that needs to come in and out of there, whether it's EPA
16 or technical or whoever it is, this is going to be great
17 for the airport. It can only be a great thing for the
18 airport. We support this project 100 percent.

19 It's also going to be great for the community
20 in terms of fueling rental cars and motels and et cetera,
21 et cetera, as these people come in they go. We support it
22 100 percent. And that's probably just about all I have.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you. Next name on the
25 speaker's list is James Duhon. And please correct me if I

1 mispronounce your name.

2 MR. DUHON: My name is James Duhon. I'm from
3 Westlake, Louisiana. And I'm here to support the LNG
4 project here at Corpus Christi.

5 We've had a LNG plan in Lake Charles over 20
6 years now, and we had the same concerns as everybody here.
7 And they just doubled that terminal. They just put in
8 another unloading facility there and doubled it, which --
9 I think they can unload right at a ship a day now. And I
10 just wanted to -- if anybody had concern we feel very safe
11 with it.

12 And I'd like to speed up this permit process.
13 I think the last meeting was June 9. I think that's six
14 months. So let's hope it don't take another six months.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you. Next speaker -- Dale
17 Wortham.

18 MR. WORTHAM: Good evening. I'm Dale Wortham.
19 I'm with the International Brotherhood of Electrical
20 Workers. We're the people that bring you the power. And
21 those powerhouses run off two sources, fossil fuels or
22 natural gas.

23 And when they run off fossil fuels it makes the
24 air dirty; it makes it more expensive. When it runs off
25 natural gas it's clean burning and it's safer and it

1 allows us to build more power plants to deliver more power
2 to your homes.

3 We need to speed up the energy needs of this
4 country. Our businesses can't afford to pay higher energy
5 cost because that results in layoffs. That results in
6 price increases. So we at the IBEW see the need
7 nationally for LNGs.

8 I'm from Houston, and this is my third trip
9 here. My nine-year-old son asked me where I was going
10 tonight. And I said, Son, I'm trying to get us some power
11 up in Houston because you -- it's going to come through
12 the pipeline.

13 It's critical. I think it's extremely critical
14 that the process is expedited as fast as it can be due to
15 the fact that the nation's energy needs need to be met;
16 they need to be met fast.

17 And we support this project and hope to see it
18 come within the next month. Thank you.

19 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.
20 Next on the speaker's list is Kevin Hopkins.

21 MR. HOPKINS: My name is Kevin Hopkins. I'm a
22 doctor over at Driscoll Children's Hospital. And I'm
23 neither for or against the LNG. But I speak as a
24 concerned citizen because I don't think we have enough
25 information.

1 And I -- you know, you see these announcements
2 for the meetings -- I know Port Aransas was -- seems like
3 it was poorly attended -- 12 people showed up there. And
4 this seems like a pretty good turnout. I don't know if
5 it's stacked with people who have their own interest for
6 having the LNG here.

7 But I think that we should just really proceed
8 with caution. I've -- gradually learning more and more
9 from on the internet. I'm trying to read as much as
10 possible. And, like I say, I'm not totally against having
11 LNG. I agree with the gentleman that just spoke that it
12 is a good source of fuel. I think the way the energy
13 situation is that it is -- we are -- it is very efficient
14 fuel and it will be good for us, too.

15 Why not have it offshore? Why do you have to
16 have it here on the shores here in Corpus Christ or
17 Ingleside?

18 I stopped by the Coast Guard Marine Safety
19 yesterday and I was told that the Commandant was going to
20 be here, but I guess -- is somebody from the Coast Guard
21 here? (Pause.) I guess I'm disappointed about that
22 because I would like an explanation does the Coast Guard
23 have a plan about the ships -- or thousand-foot ships
24 navigating in the channel. And you have to have two-mile
25 right-of-way around the ships there.

1 Have they worked out the plans for doing that?
2 Is it going to disrupt the ferry traffic? I spoke to
3 gentleman today from Cheniere that's been very helpful to
4 me. He says no. I don't know.

5 Also, I'm convinced that the tanks themselves
6 are not the danger. They seem to be well insulated and
7 LNG, when it's liquified -- I mean, when it's in gas in
8 the tanks it doesn't really burn. But the problem is when
9 unloading -- in the unloading and also possible ship
10 spillages from rupture or from even terrorist attacks.

11 A lot of communities don't support these. They
12 turned one down in New Hampshire. They turned one down in
13 Maine. In Casca Bay in Maine they're voting on it right
14 now. Savannah's had one for a long time. Everett in
15 Boston has had one -- Everett outside of Boston has had
16 one. Fall River -- they're voting on it.

17 I really think that it should not be a slam
18 dunk. I'm glad we have public hearings like this. I'm
19 questioning what the economic impact is here. I mean, is
20 it, yes, we'll have more workers. Are these workers
21 local? Are they subcontracted? What's the economic
22 impact here. Yes, the fuel will help the local industry.
23 If we look at natural gas they'll get cheaper fuel.

24 And I don't know. I just -- yes, rush the
25 regulations. But, I mean, I think that maybe the

1 community is apathetic. Maybe more people would know
2 facts or are concerned. You can't discount a terrorist
3 attack either. I know it sounds weird, but nobody thought
4 the World Trade Center was going to be attacked either.

5 Please just, you know, keep an open mind. I am
6 open minded. I would prefer it offshore. You get one
7 tanker -- you get thousand-foot tankers. What's the --
8 you get two tankers. Are they going to -- you know, how
9 many -- if there are going to be three LNG plants in a row
10 what's that traffic like? Do you have to -- how do you
11 turn around a ship?

12 You know, there's a lot of issues there, so I
13 hope that people do keep an open mind. I do think you
14 have to answer a lot of questions. I don't think that you
15 should rush to judgment on anything. And I hope more
16 concerned citizens learn the facts. So I thank everyone.

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
18 Next on the speaker's list is Pat Suter.

19 MS. SUTER: I brought some copies. Should I
20 give them to you?

21 MR. FRIEDMAN: Actually, to the court reporter.

22 MS. SUTER: I'm not going to say anything in
23 addition to what I have said before. We do support from
24 the environmental community. We support the location of
25 the Cheniere plant on the Sherwin Williams site -- or -- I

1 did that the other day -- Sherwin site.

2 And we believe that LNG is the fuel of choice,
3 at least for the time being. There are some constraints
4 however. Methane is a very powerful material for global
5 warming, as is the burning product, carbon dioxide. So
6 we're not really helping the situation as far as it's
7 getting warmer. Of course, it's cold today.

8 But, from the standpoint of the environmental
9 community, we have an additional reason for supporting LNG
10 in the local area and supporting it being online as fast
11 as possible. And some of you won't like what I have to
12 say, but we have an oil company that is in the national
13 seashore drilling for natural gas.

14 They are, in the view of the environmental
15 community, disspoilng a national park for private gain.
16 The public gets nothing out of that gas that they produce
17 over there because they pay no royalties to the federal
18 government. They go through with their big trucks on the
19 beach between where you're trying to camp and the water.
20 And that gas is expensive to produce.

21 So if you can LNG in over here at Ingleside at
22 half the cost of what they're having to pay to have their
23 gas ready to sell we're all for it. Thank you.

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
25 Next on my speaker's list is Lois Hoff.

1 MS. HOFF: Hi. My name is Lois Hoff. I am
2 president of the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi.
3 And I'm going to read a brief statement.

4 The League of Women Voters, Corpus Christi,
5 appreciates the interest of Cheniere Corpus Christi
6 Pipeline Company in its efforts to join our community as a
7 responsible corporate citizen.

8 The League of Women Voters' position statement
9 on resource management, in effect for well over 20 years,
10 includes encouraging efforts to promote resource
11 conservation, stewardship in long-range planning, with the
12 responsibility to managing natural resources shared by all
13 levels of government.

14 The League of Women Voters have long supported
15 efforts dealing with energy conservation -- solar energy
16 and alternative energy. However, our country is currently
17 in a position where we have not been concerned enough
18 about conservation. And, therefore, we are facing energy
19 shortages.

20 Recognizing that our state and national
21 governments continue to ignore this, the League of --
22 continue to ignore the League of Women Voters' efforts in
23 encouraging conservation and in the use of renewable
24 energy. And, recognizing the current energy shortage, we
25 find ourselves in a position where supporting the efforts

1 of Cheniere Corpus Christi Pipeline Company is more
2 responsible than opposing their efforts.

3 Even though importing foreign liquified natural
4 gas is not a set in conservation it will provide energy
5 resources required for economic stability. Cheniere has
6 made sincere efforts to educate the local citizens
7 regarding their plans.

8 The League of Women Voters in Corpus Christi
9 has been provided details about this project and we
10 support this project. Thank you.

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
12 Next on the list is Terry Simpson.

13 MR. SIMPSON: Good evening. I hope everybody
14 knows me here. My name's Terry Simpson. I'm the county
15 judge for San Patricio County.

16 And, as I've said in the past, and I will
17 continue to say, San Patricio County is firmly behind the
18 efforts of Cheniere or any of the other LNG projects that
19 are currently in the works. We have been working closely
20 with Mr. English and Mr. Meyer and a lot of the folks from
21 Cheniere.

22 And we have been on the beginning edge of
23 concerns. They have addressed all our concerns. They
24 have been open, honest, straightforward. If there's
25 something that you have a concern about they get you a

1 factful, straight answer, whether it's good for them or
2 bad for them. And we appreciate that.

3 There's 49 issues that are addressed in the
4 draft statement on the environment. None of those
5 particular issues are of any major consequence. I visited
6 with Mr. English here recently, and he has informed me
7 that they are taking steps to address those and see to it
8 that they are not a concern.

9 They are very well aware of the needs for the
10 ferry traffic to be flowing as it should be so that people
11 are not delayed. They're very concerned about any erosion
12 impacts that there may be along the shorelines on the ship
13 channel. And they are taking steps and efforts to try to
14 help mitigate that.

15 And so I feel like that Cheniere LNG has gone
16 beyond what they were really required to do to get to the
17 point that they will be a good neighbor. And they will
18 provide good jobs. And they will protect the jobs that we
19 have here now.

20 Because, as we know, Sherwin Alumina, a company
21 that's struggling to keep its head above water in this
22 market and this economy, with a foreign competition that
23 we have -- that they don't care about their environments.
24 They don't care what happens in their countries -- all
25 they want to do is make money -- are undercutting our

1 industry here in this country. And we need to do whatever
2 is necessary to protect our livelihoods because we don't
3 want to go backwards. We want to continue to progress.

4 And I thank Cheniere and all the
5 representatives for the work that they've done and the
6 work that they're going to continue to do. And I know
7 they've become a member of a lot of particular
8 organizations in this county and in the Corpus Christi
9 area so that they can be good neighbors and support the
10 activities around here. Thank you.

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
12 Next on my list is Mike Carranco. And please correct me if
13 I pronounced it wrong.

14 MR. CARRANCO: Thank you and good evening. My
15 name is Mike Carranco. That's spelled C-A-R-R-A-N-C-O.
16 And I am the business manager for the Electrical Workers
17 Local Union #278 in Corpus Christi. And I am here this
18 evening to speak in behalf of the project for the Corpus
19 Christi natural gas plant.

20 This will be an economic boon to this area. We
21 represent approximately 600 members -- electrical workers
22 here in this area which are highly trained and skilled in
23 installing electrical work.

24 We are prepared to supply the customer Cheniere
25 and the contractor, whoever they may choose to build it,

1 with the best trained and skilled electricians in the
2 area. We request that the powers that be would please put
3 this permit process on fast track if possible.

4 And, also, I want to share -- there was a
5 gentleman that spoke earlier about his concerns about the
6 safety of such a plant. I've been an electrician for
7 approximately 30 years. In my younger years I worked out
8 in the Gulf of Mexico on a transmission platform which
9 transmitted natural gas onshore Louisiana.

10 And, believe me, I slept safe because I knew
11 that that was a safe facility. There was a state-of-the-
12 art fire alarm protection system there that -- which we
13 wired. And we have the trained skilled workers to wire
14 this plant. And you all can feel safe sleeping at night.
15 Thank you very much.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
17 Next on my life is Craig Loving.

18 MR. LOVING: Hello folks. My name's Craig
19 Loving, and I'm also with the International Brotherhood of
20 Electrical Workers, Local 278, in Corpus Christi.

21 I cannot add too much to what Mike said, except
22 I've also worked in most of the plants in this area. And
23 this appears to be a first-class operation they want to
24 put in here. I feel very safe working on it or living
25 next to it.

1 I'm also a father and a husband, and I feel
2 very safe with my family in the area. I hunt and fish and
3 care about the environment. I feel safe with the plant in
4 the area with that.

5 I have nothing else to say other than please
6 expedite.

7 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
8 Next on list -- David Krebs.

9 MR. KREBS: Good evening. I'm David Krebs,
10 mayor of Portland. We truly support the Cheniere group
11 coming in. I mean, it's going to be a great impact for,
12 as they call it, the north shore side of Nueces Bay.

13 The jobs that it will bring in for us is going
14 to be a drastic -- or a tremendous help for our economy.
15 I know my cohort later on with GPISD will get up and talk
16 about what impact -- big impact it will have on GPISD.

17 Right now we do not have the Cheniere plant in
18 the city limits, and it probably won't be. We wish it
19 would be, Mr. English, because it would surely be a big
20 impact for the city of Portland.

21 But we appreciate what Cheniere has done. I
22 have looked over that impact study. I think, as Judge
23 Simpson said, you all have gone way beyond what you all
24 probably needed to do on a lot of the issues that are, you
25 know, talked about in there. And we appreciate that.

1 So, on the behalf of the city of Portland the
2 citizens that live in Portland, we definitely support your
3 plant and look forward to having you all as a neighbor
4 right here in our backyard. Thank you.

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
6 Next on the list -- Ray Allen.

7 MR. ALLEN: Good evening. Thank you for this
8 opportunity to speak this evening. I'm Ray Allen with the
9 Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program.

10 I want to acknowledge the efforts of Cheniere
11 in working with the environmental community to address our
12 concerns. I have reviewed the draft EIS downloaded from
13 the website. If you haven't been there it's a lot of fun.
14 Okay. It's not really, but _

15 I do want to support comments made earlier by
16 Pat Suter of the Sierra Club regarding the site for the
17 location. It is an industrial channel. It's a great
18 distance to any residential areas. It's -- and from that
19 regard it makes an ideal location for an LNG facility, and
20 I would -- am pleased with that location.

21 I have reviewed the pipeline route and have
22 observed that there will, in fact, be some wetland impacts
23 from the pipeline. I've looked over some of the
24 restoration monitoring efforts that are being proposed and
25 concur with those activities. I would just encourage you

1 to live up to your word to do that hard work out there.

2 The terminal itself there on the La Quinta
3 Channel is the major facility with the most environmental
4 impacts. We recognize that, even though there are sea
5 grasses that are being impacted and other marsh habitat,
6 it is, in fact, a fringe location for these wetlands as it
7 is located on an industrial channel.

8 So, while all sea grasses are important,
9 perhaps these are of lesser quality overall. Hence, the
10 efforts put into developing a mitigation plan as proposed
11 in the draft EIS -- that the efforts that Cheniere has put
12 into in working with the estuary program on a high
13 priority site, which is Shamrock Island -- efforts to
14 restore and protect habitat at that location. That is,
15 again, a priority site for us in our base system and it
16 makes an awful lot of sense for Cheniere to have focused
17 their mitigation efforts at that location.

18 The other issues I did want to touch on a
19 little bit -- and someone else mentioned them earlier. We
20 are concerned about -- I guess it was Judge Simpson --
21 thank you -- erosion -- a wake of base erosion along the
22 channels, both to residential and commercial properties
23 and to wildlife habitat in the bay.

24 I sit in my office in downtown Corpus Christi,
25 and I can tell when the tankers and the big ships are

1 coming, because they throw up a wake that goes a long way.
2 We need to take that into account: secondary impacts from
3 that development.

4 We continue to be concerned about ballast
5 waterborne invasive species. We're used to the processes
6 and procedures used here in our oil importing activities
7 and product moving transportation activities. These are
8 ships coming from different places than we're used to
9 here, and the possibility for introducing exotics into our
10 environment is very real. So we're anxious that there be
11 a good plan in place for dealing with that problem before
12 it occurs.

13 And, in addition to the ballast water, there
14 are other mechanisms for these invasive species to reach
15 our bay. We're fortunate -- other than a few plants and
16 animals that have invaded our area we have not seen the
17 drastic invasions of other bay systems around the United
18 States, and we hope to avoid that in the future.

19 I think with that I'll just wrap up and say we
20 concur with the findings of the draft EIS _ look forward
21 to it going to a final form. And we continue to be
22 willing to work with Cheniere as this project moves
23 forward. Thank you.

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
25 Next, Josephine Miller.

1 MS. MILLER: Good evening. My name is
2 Josephine Miller, and I am currently the executive
3 director of the San Patricio County Economic Development
4 Corporation.

5 I want to compliment the Government for its
6 draft report. I don't know if any of us have mentioned
7 tonight that that three-quarters of an inch, inch thick
8 booklet is very well done, very thoughtfully prepared, and
9 has a lot of really good information for us. So thank
10 you.

11 I have spoken in favor of this project
12 previously. And, of course, naturally, since I have that
13 economic development hat on you expect me to say something
14 nice about it tonight, which I am.

15 However, I'm going to change my comments from
16 talks about the projects to telling you a little bit about
17 myself and how I would come to support something like
18 this.

19 I come from this area from a long line of
20 people who have lived in south Texas. My grandmother's
21 grandfather's house is still sitting on the water in
22 Bayside. My family has ranched in this area for over 100
23 years. The worst thing you could do and the quickest way
24 you could make my father angry was to drop something on
25 the land and not pick it up and take it home with you.

1 I couldn't be paid to talk about a project that
2 I thought was going to ruin this part of Texas. There's
3 not enough money to make me stand up here and say yes to
4 something that I thought was going to tear this place up.

5 So what I'm saying to the government people
6 that are here tonight, what part of yes do you not
7 understand? Thank you.

8 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
9 Next -- Laura Miller.

10 MS. MILLER: Hi. My name is Laura Miller. I'm
11 the executive director of the Portland Chamber of
12 Commerce. And on behalf of the board of directors I would
13 like to express our support of the presence of the
14 Cheniere facility on the Sherwin property and to also
15 express our support of a speedy completion of the
16 permitting process.

17 Cheniere will add considerable employment to
18 our area. And it has received overwhelming community
19 support. They have done an excellent job of communicating
20 with local communities and stakeholders. And they have
21 earned the respect of local residents.

22 And, once again, we do support this project and
23 we encourage for it to expedite the permitting process.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

1 Next -- Steve Woerner.

2 MS. WOERNER: I'm Steven Woerner. I'm chair of
3 the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce. And, obviously,
4 I'm pro growth, but I took a special interest -- I met
5 Keith Meyer almost a year ago talking about the project.

6 I wanted to know Keith -- where this company
7 stood, much less particulars, because Keith and I are
8 going to be neighbors. I live next to Longs Pier several
9 hundred yards down from this project. I'm the guy in the
10 red kayak fishing all the time, and I'm not floundering
11 tonight because I'm here talking to you all.

12 If you want to talk about pollution we need to
13 talk about securing beer cans on the boats. Me and my
14 neighbors pick up trash and police that beach. We take
15 care of it. And we're proud to live in Portland and be
16 part of this community and live in that particular site
17 where we'll be able to see the LNG plant.

18 I think it's great. I think a clean industry,
19 having neighbors like Keith, who I got to know personally,
20 the honest with which he answered his questions and the
21 integrity of the information was very good.

22 And as a landowner and somebody that lives and
23 is going to be in the environment with this project on the
24 highlands part of it, aside from my role in promoting
25 development for Corpus Christi and the greater area.

1 So, with that, I'm comfortable. Keith,
2 welcome. And as a neighbor I'll call you if I have a
3 problem.

4 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
5 Next speaker -- Cathy Hirschman.

6 MS. HIRSCHMAN: Good evening. I'm Cathy
7 Hirschman. I'm the executive director at the Ingleside
8 Chamber of Commerce.

9 In Ingleside and with the Chamber we are in
10 support of this project. We are happy to have Cheniere as
11 a future neighbor, alongside with Sherwin Alumina. We
12 believe that is an ideal location and welcome them there.

13 Mr. English and Keith have already been at
14 several of the functions that the Chamber holds, and we
15 welcome them there and appreciate their attendance and
16 support, in addition to their support with the Chamber of
17 Commerce in Ingleside. And also some of the other members
18 have already gotten to know them and been involved with
19 their programs as well.

20 So we encourage the expediting process and
21 welcome them.

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
23 Next -- Roger Wright.

24 MR. WRIGHT: Good evening. My name is Roger
25 Wright. I'm president of the Ingleside Chamber of

1 Commerce.

2 Not only am I president of the Ingleside
3 Chamber of Commerce but I'm a long-time resident of this
4 area. I moved here in 1972. And I've spent a lot of time
5 out in Corpus Christi Bay and have spent time fishing out
6 there and enjoying Corpus Christi Bay.

7 And I think that the environmental impact work
8 that Cheniere Energy has done in mitigation process for
9 the new energy plant is going to be a great benefit to
10 everybody in this area who comes down here, who lives
11 here, who comes as a tourist to enjoy the entire area in
12 terms of fishing.

13 Obviously, as president of the Ingleside
14 Chamber of Commerce, the economic impact is obvious for a
15 positive one for our area. But I think the environmental
16 issue has been addressed very nicely by Cheniere. And I
17 support the project.

18 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
19 Loyd Neal.

20 MR. NEAL: Thank you very much. I'm Loyd Neal,
21 the mayor of Corpus Christi. And this really is a
22 historical night -- first time in my memory that Pat Suter
23 and I have stood at the same podium in support of the same
24 thing.

25 But, seriously, I am delighted to be here

1 tonight to speak on behalf of the City of Corpus Christi.
2 We have in the past as a council unanimously supported
3 resolutions for this project. And I recently wrote a
4 letter to you encouraging you to speed the process up and
5 let's get this permit issued.

6 But I think all of us who are here tonight who
7 are speaking in favor of this project realize what it can
8 do for our industry, for this area of Texas, and also for
9 natural gas production and relieving the natural gas
10 shortage in this country.

11 So I'm here tonight to reaffirm our support of
12 the City of Corpus Christi and encourage you to speed this
13 process up and let's get this permit issued. Thank you
14 very much.

15 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
16 Next is Georgia Neblett.

17 MS. NEBLETT: I'm Georgia Neblett, and I'm
18 mayor of the City of Port Aransas. And I'd like to thank
19 the Commission for their comprehensive draft EIS report.

20 I'm pleased to report to the Commission that we
21 have had an ongoing dialogue with Cheniere regarding the
22 concerns of the city of Port Aransas. It's been very
23 positive. I know they're in touch with the Aransas harbor
24 pilots and are dealing with them concerning some of the
25 concerns of the city of Port Aransas, as well as the

1 United States Coast Guard, and also are working with us in
2 dealing with our erosion problems.

3 And we thank them for their sincerity and their
4 interest and look forward to an ongoing working
5 relationship with them. Thank you.

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
7 Next -- Rick Casas.

8 MR. CASAS: Good evening. My name is Rick
9 Casas. I'm the presiding officer of the Aransas-Corpus
10 Christi Pilots.

11 The Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilots have
12 historically worked closely with industry, the Port of
13 Corpus Christi, and all regulating authorities to enhance
14 and ensure the progress, viability, and safety of all
15 proposed projects.

16 Recently we have worked with the Port of Corpus
17 Christi and the United States Army Corps of Engineers on
18 the proposed ship channel improvements that will include
19 widening and deepening the channel and VTIS, which is the
20 Vessel Traffic Information System.

21 The pilots have worked extensively on LNG
22 vessels at the U.S. Corps of Engineers simulation
23 facility in Vicksburg, Mississippi. We also attended LNG
24 vessel simulation at the Marine Safety Institute in
25 Newport, Rhode Island.

1 As reported in the vessel simulation study of
2 October 25, 2003, simulation runs were successfully
3 conducted on LNG vessels from 140,000 cubic meters to
4 250,000 cubic meters. Included in the study were comments
5 by several of the pilots that the larger vessels handled
6 better and were more responsive than the smaller 140,000
7 cubic meters. I personally attended the simulations and
8 know that these vessels can safely navigate the channel.

9 Since all of the simulation runs were
10 successful we recommend at this time that there are no
11 restrictions placed on the size of LNG vessels that have
12 been evaluated up to and including 250,000 cubic meters.

13 In conclusion, we respect the efforts and
14 concerns of all parties involved. We will continue to
15 work closely with the industry and regulating authorities
16 to ensure that LNG vessels transits in the Corpus Christi
17 ship channel will be safe. Thank you.

18 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.
19 Fernando Gomez.

20 MR. GOMEZ: My name is Fernando Gomez. I am
21 the mayor for the City of Gregory. I agree with my
22 counterpart, the mayor of Portland and mayor or Corpus
23 Christi, on the comments. And the City of Gregory fully
24 supports this project.

25 I would like to say one thing to the Cheniere

1 teamwork -- that you guys have built a tremendous
2 communication network between the company and the
3 communities. That I commend on you.

4 And on behalf of the City of Gregory, again, we
5 support the project. Thank you very much.

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
7 Terry Carter.

8 MR. CARTER: Don't leave, boss. I'm Terry
9 Carter, president and CEO of the Corpus Christi Chamber of
10 Commerce. And I stand before you today as a CEO of a
11 member-based organization representing more than 1,200
12 businesses in the Corpus Christi area.

13 My chairman of the board has just spoke to you
14 and shared with you the endorsement of our Chamber of
15 Commerce for this project. And I want to reiterate that,
16 Keith. We stand solidly behind you.

17 This project is good for Corpus Christi. This
18 project is good for the state of Texas. This project is
19 good for the consumers in the United States. And we
20 encourage this process to be expedited right away. We
21 congratulate you, sir, on the permit that was already
22 issued today. And we'd like to see this project move
23 forward fast. Thank you very much.

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
25 Mark Scott.

1 MR. SCOTT: Well, I'm a little disappointed.
2 I've spoken to you before and you introduced me as the
3 mayor of Corpus Christi. Now I'm just Mark Scott. My
4 name is Mark Scott. I'm a city councilman in Corpus
5 Christi, and I'm delighted to be here.

6 Seriously, Paul, I think that we appreciate
7 your work and I know the gentlemen issued some concerns
8 previously. But I will tell you that, having worked with
9 the federal government on other projects in Corpus
10 Christi, we believe that you are thorough. We believe the
11 draft report speaks for itself. And we, frankly, believe
12 it's time to move on.

13 I represent about 60,000 people, give or take a
14 few. But I also serve on a governing body for about
15 300,000 people. We support this project. The body
16 supports the project. The citizens of Corpus Christi
17 support the project.

18 We also want to salute this community. We want
19 to salute Cheniere and we want to salute you all in this
20 room. You all have worked very diligently to get to this
21 point.

22 It is a pleasure and an honor to serve on a
23 government body that works with you all and watches your
24 success. We are delighted at what you are doing and we
25 believe that this will come to fruition and we will all

1 celebrate that success.

2 Paul, I've heard somebody mention in the back
3 that maybe as a Christmas present we could get that
4 permit. I told them that was inappropriate. So I think
5 maybe by the first of the year if you could get that
6 permit.

7 We do thank you for coming. We would like to
8 ask you to expedite the process. We think that you've
9 done thorough work, but it's time to move on. And we hope
10 that you will support this project and make 2005 a
11 successful year. Thank you.

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments,
13 Mayor. Next up -- Paul Clore.

14 MR. CLORE: Good evening. I'm Paul Clore. I'm
15 superintendent of schools for the Gregory-Portland
16 Independent School District, in which the Cheniere plant
17 will be located, assuming that the permitting process is
18 expedited, as we all hope will be the case.

19 We and the school district concur with the
20 draft report and support the findings that have been
21 presented there and appreciate the straightforward
22 responsiveness of Cheniere in addressing the issues of
23 concern that have been put forward.

24 We can tell you as a school district that they
25 have been working with us potential abatement issues in

1 the future regarding taxes, as well as providing revenue
2 to the school district. They have been very forthright in
3 their business transactions that they have brought forward
4 to us. And we believe truly that if that same
5 forthrightness is applied in the environmental area any
6 issues of concern that there may be that come to pass,
7 whether now or in the future, they will deal with with due
8 diligence.

9 And we look forward to working with them in
10 partnership once the permit is approved and they begin the
11 project. Thank you.

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
13 Ron Kitchens.

14 MR. KITCHENS: Paul, it is good to see you
15 again and good to have you in Corpus Christi. I -- three
16 years ago I toured my first LNG plant. I was in Boston to
17 tour that facility and look at LNG and what it meant for
18 this community, because it had been talked about
19 nationally, and was it safe?

20 We heard all kinds of things. We had somebody
21 who we thought knew his stuff, said, If you bring an LNG
22 plant in and it leaks, it will empty the bay. Now, we all
23 know that's not true. We've all learned a lot in the last
24 three years. And Cheniere and Keith and his group have
25 done a lot of that -- to educate us.

1 But I think one of the things we learned -- and
2 I've had the opportunity to now read literally dozens of
3 public hearing minutes from LNG meetings like this all
4 over the country. I've attended several all over the
5 country.

6 And I don't believe -- and maybe I'm wrong, but
7 I don't believe in any of those hearings did we see the
8 environmental community, organized labor, government, and
9 business step to a podium and say, Yes, please, may we
10 have this and may we have this now.

11 We should salute ourselves because, instead of
12 bickering, instead of talking about, well, what if they
13 use this contractor, what if they do that, or what if it's
14 not in my geographic region, and how are we going to split
15 the taxes, and what happens with this. We've all come
16 together and we've said, It's good for the region, it's
17 good for business, it's good for all of us.

18 There's something else I will tell you that we
19 discovered, that in the United States 39 percent of
20 natural gas is used by industry. In the Coastal Bend it's
21 over 60 percent of the natural gas is used by industry.

22 Now, why do I tell you that? Because last
23 month I had a plant close down because of natural gas. We
24 lost a plant to Trinidad 100 percent because of the cost
25 of natural gas. We have 3,000 jobs in this community that

1 are at risk without a dependable source of fixed price
2 natural gas. Those jobs on average are over \$50,000 a
3 year. And I know by Washington, D.C., standards that
4 isn't a lot, but by Texas standards those are jobs that we
5 simply cannot replace.

6 Now it isn't if we're going to get natural gas;
7 it's when we're going to get that fixed price. And,
8 frankly, I think we've seen a process that has not moved
9 as quickly as we would all have liked, as you have heard
10 tonight. We salute the folks in Sabine with the approval
11 of their permit tonight. And we hope very rapidly -- and
12 Mark said the first of the year -- how about Valentine's
13 Day -- be a great gift for us.

14 But we need to see this and we need to break
15 ground on this facility because, frankly, we have 3,000
16 families at risk today in this family without this
17 facility.

18 Thank you for being here. Thank you all for
19 doing a tremendous job and an asset on the report for this
20 community. You showed us what high standards mean, but I
21 think you're seeing what a community can do when they're
22 committed to succeeding together. Thank you.

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
24 Judy Hawley.

25 MS. HAWLEY: Good evening. I'm Judy Hawley,

1 Port Commissioner for the Port of Corpus Christi and
2 speaking on behalf of the Port of Corpus Christi tonight.

3 I'd like to tell you that the Port of Corpus
4 Christi -- the Port Authority does support this project.
5 We've supported it as soon as we were briefed by the
6 people from Cheniere. We are very satisfied with the EIS
7 that you have here.

8 The concerns, of course, from the Port's
9 perspective had to do with vehicular traffic, with working
10 with the Coast Guard. And due diligence has been done
11 to -- almost overboard in that respect.

12 There will be 300 vehicle movements a year --
13 that's one each way a day. We are very convinced the
14 timing of that will not interfere with the regular marine
15 traffic that serves the rest of the Port business. And we
16 feel very, very comfortable with Cheniere coming in and
17 blending in to the Port activities.

18 I'd like to add to what Ron Kitchens said -- I
19 think it's extremely important that we realize that not
20 only is natural gas a fuel source for the industries in
21 this area, it is also feed stock. And it's very, very
22 critical, especially for the industries on the North Bay,
23 that we have that reliable supply of natural gas.

24 One BCF a day -- that's a huge, huge amount of
25 natural gas to come through this area through an existing

1 set of pipelines for the most part. And what it will do
2 is stabilize the price of that fuel source and feed stock
3 for the industries in this area.

4 So it's a matter of economic development. It
5 is a matter of growth for this area. It is a matter of
6 the future of this area. And, to be quite honest with
7 you, the times that we've had a huge number of military
8 deployments through our Port, and we are acutely aware of
9 the world situation here because it's so visible to us
10 each and every day. But a reliable supply of natural gas
11 is a matter of national security as well.

12 So, congratulations, Keith. Thank you for a
13 job well done. You've been working with this community
14 for several years in another role. And I can only say
15 that the due diligence that you have done has rewarded you
16 and your company with this kind of outreach and support
17 from the community.

18 And I doubt that you'll see it in any other
19 area, but this community, as you can tell, is united from
20 the educational perspective, from the economic development
21 perspective, from the environmental perspective, from just
22 the regular citizens.

23 And the Port of Corpus Christi is proud to
24 support this project. As has been said many times
25 whatever we can do to help you expedite the permitting

1 process please count on us to be there to make that
2 happen. So thank you very much for being here this
3 evening and hope that you move forward quickly. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
6 Robert Morris? (Pause.) Is there a Mr. Morris here?
7 (Pause.) Gene Seamens.

8 MR. SEAMENS: I'm Gene Seamens, State
9 Representative, District 32. And, Mr. Friedman, and,
10 first, Mr. Meyer and Cheniere, I thank you for what you've
11 done and the great effort and the coordination with our
12 community.

13 But I really want to address the letter to you
14 from the Governor. And it was to Chairman Wood written
15 yesterday, December 14. And to you. And I'll just read
16 one of the many paragraphs.

17 I'm writing today to express support for
18 Cheniere's energy application to build a new liquid LNG
19 import terminal in the state of Texas. In the face of
20 continuing high natural gas prices both consumers and
21 industries need ready access to affordable natural gas
22 prices and supplies. From a national perspective Texas
23 has the existing pipeline infrastructure to carry natural
24 gas from the proposed Cheniere facility to the rest of the
25 country.

1 And there's other paragraphs, but that's the
2 essence of the Governor's endorsement for that.

3 And as -- very coincidentally, Paul, the
4 last -- as I get ready for the coming session in January
5 in our State Legislature I've gone around my whole four-
6 county district and held many town hall meetings. And in
7 doing so we've talked about issues like the Cheniere and
8 the LNG needs for this area.

9 And as I've talked to the public -- 150,000
10 people and represented by their spokesmen in those
11 areas -- we have heard no negative comments -- nothing but
12 a very positive comment from all of the communities that I
13 visit throughout my four-county district.

14 And when I talk to industry here on the ship
15 channel and on the bay they talk about the need for the
16 stable price -- lower price -- clean fuel and being able
17 to create the tax base for the state of Texas and to
18 create jobs for many of our lower income people, many
19 below the line of poverty, and the tremendous need for
20 jobs here. And we want to keep the industries going here,
21 and not only supply our industry but the Texas and the
22 United States.

23 So we in the state in the Texas urge you to
24 expedite this process. Thank you, sir.

25 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

1 That was the last person on my speaker's list. Is there
2 anyone else who would like to speak at this time? If so,
3 raise your hand. Come on up and clearly state your name
4 for the record.

5 MR. GRISEMER: I apologize for being late. My
6 children were in a Christmas play tonight. My name is
7 Rian Grisemer, and I'm with Shoreline Gas. We are a
8 Corpus Christi-based natural gas pipeline and marketing
9 company.

10 We support Cheniere. We think that this
11 project will play an important role in solving our
12 nation's supply -- natural gas supply shortage. I'm an
13 engineer. I've been in the natural gas business for 28
14 years. And we believe this project will create jobs and
15 business opportunities for this community.

16 And we support the project and wish Cheniere
17 the best of luck in the whole process. And Merry
18 Christmas.

19 MR. FRIEDMAN: Is Patti Strain here?

20 MS. STRAIN: Hello. My name is Patti Cass
21 Strain. I'm president of the San Patricio County
22 Association of Realtors. And I'm here to state -- to
23 reaffirm our support for Cheniere. Thank you guys so much
24 for your customer service.

25 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

1 Anyone else who'd like to speak? Yes, sir. Please come
2 up and clearly state your name.

3 MR. NARDINI: I came in late, but she said, Do
4 you want to speak, I said no. I'm Fred Nardini, San
5 Patricio County Commissioner.

6 Everything that's been said tonight doesn't
7 need to be repeated. All I want to say is that I'm proud
8 of this community. I haven't seen this type of pride
9 since we worked in early eighties to get legislation of
10 Ingleside here.

11 You're doing it again. Keep it up. Put the
12 stamp out tonight. Stamp it. Tell Cheniere to go to work
13 tomorrow. Thank you.

14 MR. FRIEDMAN: Would anyone else like to offer
15 some comments?

16 MR. DOOLEY: I have a couple of comments.

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Yes. Come on up, please.
18 Clearly state your name.

19 MR. DOOLEY: My name's Jim Dooley. I'm with
20 the Corpus Christi Pilots -- Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilot
21 Association.

22 Mr. Allen, I just wanted to let you know that
23 prior to -- I've been a pilot for ten years, but prior to
24 that I was a master on a tank vessel that commanded three
25 different tankers.

1 And they do have in place now regulations where
2 they swap the ballast out at sea. They are out in the
3 middle of the Atlantic Ocean prior to coming into the Gulf
4 of Mexico. These regulations -- they're relatively new.
5 I think they were implemented about five years ago. But
6 there are federal regulations, and they're enforced by
7 international convention. So all ships are covered.

8 They have tank vessels -- dedicated ballast
9 tanks. They're swapped out, so that has hopefully
10 eliminated the problem with our foreign species invasion.
11 Just wanted that for the record. Thank you.

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: Anyone else like to speak? Yes?

13 MR. SOUKI: Hello. My name is Charif Souki.
14 I'm chairman of Cheniere Energy.

15 I would like to thank you all -- (applause). I
16 came here the first time four years ago. We had our share
17 of heartbreaks in terms of putting sites out that didn't
18 work. We were willing to walk away from them.

19 I am giving you my personal commitment that we
20 will be a good citizen and a good neighbor to all of you.
21 We're gratified by the reception you've given us. It's
22 been a pleasure and a privilege to be associated with you
23 for the last four years. Thank you.

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments. Is
25 there anyone else who'd like to speak here tonight?

1 (Pause.) Yes. Tell her to come on up.

2 MS. OUTTRIM: I just wanted to say one thing
3 very quickly to everyone here. I know all of you all had
4 three or four or five or six things on your agenda this
5 evening. I know there were a lot of very important things
6 going on in Corpus Christi.

7 I do appreciate your coming out and being so
8 supportive of the Cheniere project. And my door is always
9 open. Any concerns, any questions -- please give us a
10 call. And we appreciate it. Thank you very much.

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Pat, for the record, will you
12 state your name and position.

13 MS. OUTTRIM: Pat Outtrim, Cheniere Energy.

14 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you. Anyone else?

15 (Pause.) With that, we're going to conclude tonight's
16 meeting. On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
17 Commission I want to thank you all for coming here tonight
18 and providing your comments on the draft EIS for the
19 Cheniere Corpus Christi LNG project Let the record show
20 this meeting concluded at _ my watch says 8:30 p.m. Thank
21 you very much. Merry Christmas.

22 (Whereupon, at 8:30 p.m., the meeting was
23 concluded.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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IN RE: Cheniere Corpus Christi LNG Project
 Draft EIS Public Meeting
DATE: December 15, 2004
LOCATION: Portland, Texas

I hereby certify that the proceedings and
evidence are contained fully and accurately on the tapes
and notes reported by me at the hearing in the above case
before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Date: 12/22/2004

Official Reporter