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BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

- - - - - x
In the Matter of: DOCKET NO.
FREEPORT LNG'S LIQUEFACTION : PF11-2-000
PROJECT :
- - - - - x

LAKE JACKSON CIVIC CENTER
333 HIGHWAY 332 E
LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS 77566

Thursday, September 8, 2011

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing,
pursuant to notice, at 7:05 p.m., before Susan A.
Swantner, CSR in and for the State of Texas, reported by
machine shorthand.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION:

MR. ERIC TOMASI

MS. LILIANA DiANGELO

MR. STEVE BUSCH

MR. JIM GLAZE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

888 1st STNE

Washington, D.C. 20001

OTHER APPEARANCES:

J. H. RUMPP, JR., Contractor for FERC

TRC

Wannalancit Mills

650 Suffolk Street

Lowell, MA 01854

P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:05 p.m.)

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3 MR. TOMASI: Good evening everyone. On
4 behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I'd
5 like to thank you for coming out tonight for the Scoping
6 Meeting for the Liquefaction Project, proposed by
7 Freeport LNG.

8 My name is Eric Tomasi, and I am the
9 Environmental Project Manager with the Federal Energy
10 Regulatory Commission, or FERC, and we are the lead
11 federal agency that will -- that may approve this
12 Project through our process. I'd also introduce three
13 other people -- well, four other people here tonight.
14 Liliana DiAngelo here, and Steven Busch, about to sit
15 down, that they work with FERC -- or for FERC, and they
16 are LNG engineers. We also have Jim Glaze in the back.
17 He is a geologist at FERC. We also have J.H. Rumpff. He
18 is with TRC, who is a contractor working for FERC.

19 Now, let's go ahead and start. I want to
20 tell you a little bit about the purpose of tonight's
21 meeting. The primary purpose for this meeting is to
22 provide each of you with the opportunity to comment on
23 the environmental issues associated with the
24 Liquefaction Project. And, in addition, to tell us what
25 you think should be addressed or, you know, things

1 you're concerned about that the Project might impact in
2 some way your life or your property. And I always try
3 to emphasize just how important your input is to our
4 process.

5 I'm from Washington, D.C., and everyone
6 else that's with me, except J.H. Rumpp, is from
7 Washington, D.C. We don't know the area as well as you
8 do. That's why we come down to these meetings, because
9 we want to ensure that the people who know the area the
10 best will give us information about the area. So,
11 that's why we come down here to do this.

12 A little bit about what FERC is and who we
13 are as an agency. We are an independent agency, unlike
14 other agencies like EPA or the Department of Interior,
15 that sort of thing. We're an independent agency that
16 regulates the interstate transmission of electricity,
17 natural gas and oil. We review proposals and we
18 authorize construction of interstate natural gas
19 pipelines, storage facilities and, of course, LNG
20 facilities, and when I say LNG, I mean liquified natural
21 gas facilities, as well as licensing of hydroelectric
22 facilities.

23 You know, we have a responsibility for any
24 company that comes to us with an application to do an
25 Environmental Analysis of that project under the

1 National Environmental Policy Act. That's part of what
2 we are doing here tonight.

3 Right now we are in what's called the
4 pre-filing status or pre-filing phase of the
5 Environmental Review. Now, this meeting is a relatively
6 early step in that process. Many of you will have been
7 to Freeport's open houses, which they had, I think, back
8 in February and just back in July, the end of July.
9 That was a meeting for them to give outreach in the
10 community. This is a meeting for us, as the federal
11 government, to come to the people in the area and try to
12 get their concerns. This is sponsored by the government
13 and it's for the purposes of the Environmental Review
14 process.

15 Now, there was a Formal Public Notice that
16 was issued for this Project on August 18th of this year,
17 and that notice period and comment period will end on
18 September 19th. This is the official period during
19 which we will receive written comments on the Project.

20 However, and I want to stress this, is
21 that throughout this entire process we will accept
22 written comments submitted to us through our eLibrary
23 system throughout the entire process. We never put a
24 firm cut-off date on comments from the public.

25 Now, obviously the sooner you get us your

1 concerns or your comments, the better we are able to
2 address this. If you wait until the very end of the
3 process and you have a major concern, that we were not
4 aware of at that point, and either we might not have the
5 time or the ability to review that as well as we may
6 want to, or have to. So, you need to get that to us as
7 soon as you can, so that we can better address your
8 concerns.

9 So, that's where, you know, a lot of
10 people, you know, they comment at the very end, and it's
11 very important for you to comment early on in our
12 process. That's the best way for us to address your
13 concerns.

14 I did mention the eLibrary system with
15 which we have. That is the way for you to comment
16 electronically. We do have forms in the back and
17 there's a Comment Form that you can actually fill out
18 your comments either tonight and later, and either mail
19 it to me, or if you do fill it out today, you can give
20 that to me today. That is one way to do it.

21 The other way is to go to our website,
22 that's ferc.gov and file electronically. Now, the most
23 important thing you need to file electronically is the
24 Docket Number for the Project. The Docket Number for
25 this Project is currently PF11-2.

1 Now, as I said, there's multiple ways for
2 you to comment, the electronic way and the forms back
3 there. Also, many of you will have received this thing
4 right here, which is our Notice of Intent to Prepare an
5 Environmental Assessment for the Planned Liquefaction
6 Project. Within this document there is a comment sheet
7 -- well, there's a way for -- there's a description in
8 here on how you go about commenting electronically
9 through our website on the Project. So, I encourage
10 you, if you don't already have one of these, please pick
11 that up. In addition, this same information is also in
12 this little packet which we printed out here, which is
13 also on the back table.

14 Now, let me talk a little bit about our
15 process. Right now, as I have told you, this is in its
16 pre-filing stage. Many of you don't know what that
17 means. What this means is at this point the applicant,
18 which is Freeport LNG, has not actually officially filed
19 their final application with FERC. Now, what that means
20 is we don't have the final information on the project at
21 this point. We are working with the company and we are
22 working with the community to try to figure out, well,
23 what needs to be in the final application.

24 Okay. And not only do we work with the
25 community, we also work with other government agencies,

1 you know, both local, federal and state, to ensure that
2 we can get the most input on our process that we
3 possibly can.

4 Now, the ultimate goal of this is to go
5 ahead and make sure that the environmental issues are
6 addressed within the document. So that's why we come
7 out here, and that's why we talk to the other agencies,
8 to make sure that anyone who does have those
9 environmental concerns, we hear about them.

10 Okay. And ultimately, since we are the
11 lead federal agency, we will do the Environmental Review
12 and all of our environmental findings will be contained
13 within the Environmental Assessment.

14 Now, as I stated, right now we have not
15 received all of Freeport's information as yet, but we
16 will be getting additional information from Freeport as
17 this pre-filing process moves forward. We will be
18 getting the reports, the surveys. In addition, like I
19 said, we will be speaking with other government agencies
20 on the state and local level, and federal level, too, to
21 get reports and surveys that they have.

22 Right now Freeport is looking to go ahead
23 right now and file their formal application at some
24 point in early 2012.

25 Now, once we gather all of that

1 information we want to make sure that's disseminated to
2 the public as well as possible. Now, in the NOI you
3 will find a little flier that basically says whether you
4 want -- at the very, very end, whether you want a copy
5 of the EA. Now, if you are on their mailing list you
6 will receive a copy of the EA, unless you specifically
7 say you do not want it. However, right now we send out
8 electronic copies of our EAs on CD. If you want a paper
9 copy, you are going to go ahead and need to either fill
10 that out and send it back to us, to let us know that you
11 want a paper copy of the document. We understand not
12 everyone has computers and not everybody wants to look
13 at a document that may be hundreds of pages on a CD or
14 on their computer. So, please, if you want to get a
15 paper copy of that, please take the NOI and send that
16 piece of paper back in.

17 Now, there will be one other ability for
18 you to comment about this. After the EA is issued,
19 okay, once we have the EA on the street, you will have
20 another comment period. You can comment to us how you
21 feel that the Environmental Analysis has been performed.
22 That's important for us to know, because, like I said,
23 our -- the most important thing for us is outreach to
24 the public that we are serving. So, when we put this
25 document out and it closes our environmental findings,

1 then we need to hear from you and see whether you agree
2 with our findings too.

3 During that time we will be taking those
4 comments and those will be addressed in the final
5 decisional document, the EA, and any responses to your
6 concerns during the EA comment period will be forwarded
7 to our Commissioners for their decision. Their decision
8 is the final decision on whether the Project will go
9 forward or not.

10 Now, many of you have gotten the NOI and
11 have gotten the fact sheet back there, which includes a
12 summary of the Project.

13 As you guys -- well, as some of you may
14 know, Freeport LNG does have an existing import terminal
15 on Quintana Island. And with this Project they are
16 proposing to export gas, and to do that they have plans
17 to build three liquefaction refrigerant units, basically
18 cross units, which will process 1.8 billion cubic foot
19 per day -- would have the ability to process 1.8 cubic
20 -- billion cubic feet per day of natural gas and convert
21 it to liquified natural gas, and then export it.

22 Now, they also plan to construct a
23 pre-processing facility near Stratton Ridge, which is
24 several miles from the facility. And this
25 pre-processing facility will take out some of the heavy

1 materials that either do not work well or cannot be
2 liquified in the process.

3 Now, all of their facilities that they are
4 going to be building for the liquefaction process, with
5 the exception of Stratton Ridge, will be located within
6 the existing Freeport LNG facility on Quintana Island.

7 Now, that's pretty much it in a nutshell
8 for that.

9 I do not believe we have anyone who has
10 signed up to speak; is that correct? Okay. Now,
11 typically, you know, I will go ahead and tell you we
12 have a court reporter here, and if anyone has any
13 questions, tell you to speak up.

14 Since we don't have any people who want
15 to speak on the record tonight, I am going to actually
16 open it up to general questions or comments from the
17 crowd. And if you have any questions, just raise your
18 hand and I will have Jim bring you the mic, and you can
19 ask me questions.

20 Now, at this point I can't really answer
21 questions about the merits of the project, but I can
22 answer questions about our process and basically our
23 regulations that govern these sorts of facilities.

24 So, I guess before I state whether there's
25 any questions, if you do have any questions, I would ask

1 you to speak clearly, and please state your name and
2 spell it for the court reporter here, provided by Ace
3 Reporting Services, so that she can make sure that all
4 of this is officially in the record.

5 Okay. Does anyone have any questions
6 whatsoever, and it can be about any portion of the
7 project, our regulations or our process?

8 Okay. Well, in that case, since no one
9 has any questions or comments that they want to put on
10 the record, at this point I'm going to go ahead and
11 close the meeting.

12 I will give you one final time. Does
13 anyone have any questions before I close the meeting?
14 Sir.

15 MR. CAMDELARI: My name is William
16 Camdelari.

17 MR. TOMASI: Hold on one second.

18 MR. CAMDELARI: My name is William
19 Camdelari, spelled C-a-m-d-e-l-a-r-i. I live in the
20 Freeport Quintana Bay -- or Beach area. There's only
21 one bridge that goes over. When this project kicks off,
22 if it does kick off, in the year 2012, what type of
23 facilities will they do for transportation when the
24 beaches down there are fully packed? There's only one
25 bridge, two lanes, back and forth, over the top. I know

1 you're going to have some type of vehicles going over
2 the bridges. They had a problem with the bridge
3 separation at one point. So, they supposedly fixed that
4 at one point, which they did. I'd like to know what
5 would happen in that situation.

6 MR. TOMASI: Okay. Thank you. The one
7 thing I definitely would -- there's a couple of
8 different bridges. You mean the main bridge going into
9 Quintana Island; is that correct?

10 MR. CAMDELARI: That's correct.

11 MR. TOMASI: Note that he nodded yes.

12 We looked at that in previous EAs and
13 through the original EIS for Freeport LNG. However,
14 that is a concern for this project. Now that you have
15 brought it up, we were planning to analyze the impacts
16 that that would have on both traffic flow and emergency
17 response services, if there were any sort of incidents.
18 So, we were aware of that, and it's something that we
19 will be analyzing in our document.

20 But I would definitely encourage you, if
21 you have -- you know, you've already mentioned this
22 concern, but if you have other concerns, please go ahead
23 and fill out one of our forms and send that to me.
24 Okay. Thank you.

25 Any other concerns or questions?

1 MR. HOOK: My name is Wade Hook. I live
2 in Bryan Beach Subdivision in Quintana. The plant is
3 visible from my home. A very general comment, I went to
4 all of their original meetings, whenever all this
5 started ten years ago, through all of this, and when it
6 was being built for an import facility. I think at that
7 time had it been built for an export facility, the plant
8 would not be there at this time.

9 So, my sort of opinion is, you go ten
10 years, go through all of these meetings for everyone out
11 here, most of the people, and I will be gone before long
12 myself, but you get it built and it doesn't look like
13 anything of what the initial pictures, the three little
14 domes out there, with no superstructures, no fans, no
15 towers. So you get that built, and then you take a
16 year, year and a half, bring in a few ships, and they're
17 allowed to tweak the permit process to start export.
18 That is just kind of my thoughts.

19 I see it getting closer and closer to my
20 home. It's not anything like what the initial meetings,
21 from my perspective, started out to be. And we have
22 gone through all of this. We have had all of these
23 meetings and they were all gone. Now we are starting --
24 it's sort of like we are seeing that we are tweaking the
25 process, but it's more than that. Thank you.

1 MR. TOMASI: Well, we have your concern on
2 the record. We will attempt to address those the best
3 that we can. I'm sorry that you feel that during our
4 previous process that the facility does not look like
5 what you originally thought it would look like.

6 Any other questions? Sir.

7 MR. COOK: I'm Andre Cook and I live In
8 Jones Creek. And my question is, how deep do y'all plan
9 on digging the harbor or the entrance or the navigation
10 into the LNG plant? How deep are y'all going to go on
11 the harbor there on the entrance? And is it going to go
12 just to y'all's plant or is it going all the way to the
13 navigation district?

14 MR. TOMASI: Right now I really can't
15 answer that off the top of my head. However, this
16 facility doesn't necessitate, from what I can remember
17 when they filed, any changes in the navigation channel.
18 However, we have those concerns and we'll definitely
19 make sure that those are addressed and let you know.

20 Now, I would like to point out that we do
21 have company representatives here, back in that corner
22 over there. If you have specific questions, stuff like
23 that, that I can't answer off the top of my head, after
24 we conclude the meeting you can go ahead and talk with
25 him, and he might be able to give you a better answer

1 and tell you. But changes in the shipping channel were
2 done under the previous projects, and not under this
3 one. We are not expecting any changes on that point.

4 Any other questions?

5 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is John Williams.
6 I have a question about the pre-processing facility at
7 Stratton Ridge. Will that be a facility that removes
8 impurities, like carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide,
9 before it's liquified?

10 MS. DIANGELO: That's going to be the
11 pre-processing facility, and it is considered
12 non-jurisdictional to FERC, but we plan on including
13 information on the EIS.

14 MR. TOMASI: Does anyone have any other
15 questions?

16 Okay. Well, at this time I will go ahead
17 and conclude the meeting. I would like to thank
18 everyone for coming out tonight. I would like to
19 definitely encourage any comments or questions. Please,
20 let us know. We have all of the information on the back
21 table on how to comment us.

22 Thank you very much.

23 (7:24 p.m.)

24