

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Vista del Sol LNG Terminal LP
Vista del Sol Pipeline LP

Docket No. CP04-395-000
Docket No. CP04-405-000

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED **VISTA DEL SOL LNG TERMINAL PROJECT**

(December 16, 2004)

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal and natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Vista del Sol LNG Terminal LP and Vista del Sol Pipeline LP (collectively referred to as Vista del Sol) in the above-referenced dockets.

The draft EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact. The draft EIS also evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives, alternative sites for the LNG import terminal, and pipeline alternatives; and requests comments on them.

Vista del Sol's proposed facilities would transport up to 1.4 billion cubic feet per day (Bcfd) of imported natural gas to the U.S. market. In order to provide LNG import, storage, and pipeline transportation services, Vista del Sol requests Commission authorization to construct, install, and operate an LNG terminal and natural gas pipeline facilities.

The draft EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following LNG terminal and natural gas pipeline facilities:

- a ship unloading facility with berthing capabilities for two LNG ships with cargo capacities of up to 250,000 cubic meters (m³);
- three 155,000 m³ full containment LNG storage tanks;
- vaporization equipment capable of an average sendout capacity of 1.1 Bcfd and a maximum sendout capacity of 1.4 Bcfd;
- ancillary utilities, buildings, and service facilities;

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- one 25.3 mile-long, 36-inch-diameter natural gas sendout pipeline; and
- associated pipeline support facilities, including six meter stations at interconnects with nine existing pipeline systems, one pig¹ launcher, and one pig receiver.

Comment Procedures and Public Meetings

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

- Send an original and two copies of your comments to:
Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP04-395-000 and/or CP04-405-000;
- Label one copy of your comments for the attention of Gas Branch 3, PJ11.3; and
- **Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 7, 2005.**

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. As a result, we will include all comments that we receive within a reasonable time frame in our environmental analysis of the project. **However, the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing of any comments or interventions to this proceeding.** See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Before you can file comments you will need to create a free account which can be created online.

¹A pig is an internal tool that can be used to clean and dry a pipeline and/or inspect it for damage or corrosion.

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In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, we invite you to attend the public comment meeting we will conduct in the project area. The location and time for this meeting is listed below:

Tuesday, January 11, 2005, 7:00 PM
Portland Community Center
2000 Billy G Webb
Portland, Texas 78374
Telephone: (361) 777-3301

This meeting will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx> along with other related information. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the draft EIS. A transcript of the meeting will be prepared.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the draft EIS, a final EIS will be published and distributed by the staff. The final EIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments received on the draft EIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this draft EIS. You must file your request to intervene as specified above.² **You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.**

The draft EIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for distribution and public inspection at:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Public Reference Room
888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8371

²Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

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A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference Room identified above. In addition, copies of the draft EIS have been mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals and affected landowners who requested a copy of the draft EIS; libraries; newspapers; and parties to this proceeding.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at **1-866-208-FERC** or on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link on the FERC Internet website also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. Go to the eSubscription link on the FERC Internet website.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary