
Company applies for pipeline extension

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PORT COMFORT - Gulf Coast LNG Partners LP officials Monday announced that an application was made last week to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a permit that would allow the extension of pipelines farther north than was originally planned when the company applied for a permit in March, said Robert Van Borssum, port director of the Port of Port Lavaca-Point Comfort.

The March permit application asked for authorization to construct and operate the Calhoun LNG, a \$400 million terminal to handle imported liquefied natural gas.

The latest permit application, if approved, would see construction of 27 miles of 36-inch pipeline designed to transport one billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from the Point Comfort terminal.

Natural gas, which is being burned as waste in many countries, would be delivered by ship to the port and vaporized. The liquids become feed stocks for chemical plants of the immediate area and the natural gas would be sent by pipeline throughout the U.S., Van Borssum said.

The pipeline would connect to local industrial markets and to major interstate and intrastate pipelines in the region allowing it to reach two-thirds of the natural gas customers in the U.S., according to a news release from Rafael Garcia, project director for Gulf Coast LNG.

The complex, which would be built on the port's southern peninsula, would consist of two insulated tanks that measure 280 feet wide and are 140 feet tall. They would contain 3 1/2 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Plans also call for a new dock capable of handling ships and what is described as a regasification facility, which would convert the liquid back into natural gas to be piped to users through the existing pipeline systems of South Texas.

The project, if approved, would mean 600 construction jobs over a three-year period. Company officials anticipate construction would begin early in 2006.

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