

Some affected landowners may be contacted by a project representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. If so, the company should seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. In the event that the project is certificated by the Commission, that approval conveys the right of eminent domain for securing easements for the pipeline. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" is attached to this notice as appendix 1.³ This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is also available for viewing on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Weaver's Cove proposes to construct and operate an LNG import terminal and natural gas pipeline to import LNG and deliver an average of 400 million British thermal units per day (MMBtu/d), and a peak of 800 MMBtu/d to markets in the northeastern United States. The facilities would consist of:

- A pier and unloading facilities capable of receiving LNG tankers with a capacity of up to 145,000 cubic meters;
- One LNG storage tank with an capacity of 200,000 cubic meters (4.4 billion cubic feet of gas equivalent);
- Vaporization equipment and ancillary facilities;
- Truck loading facilities to deliver LNG to other facilities in the northeastern United States; and
- Two 24-inch-diameter pipelines, between 3 and 7 miles long, to interconnect with the Algonquin Gas Transmission Company pipeline system.⁴

A map depicting the proposed terminal site and the various pipeline routes under consideration is provided in appendix 2.⁵

³ The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) at the "FERRIS" link or from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch at (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to FERRIS refer to the last page of this notice.

⁴ Weaver's Cove has not yet identified its preferred route for the sendout pipelines. Three alternatives, all predominantly along existing rights-of-way, are currently under consideration.

⁵ Requests for detailed maps of the facilities may be made to the company directly. Call or e-mail:

Weaver's Cove is requesting approval to begin construction of the LNG facilities in the Fall of 2004. The approximate duration of construction of the terminal facilities would be 3 years. The duration of pipeline construction would be approximately 4 months. Weaver's Cove proposes to place the project in service in the Fall of 2007.

Land Requirements

The proposed LNG terminal would be on a 68-acre site zoned for industrial use on the Taunton River in Fall River, Massachusetts. The site has been formerly used as an oil refinery and a marine import terminal for petroleum products. The riverfront areas of the site are in a Designated Port Area as defined by the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management plan.

The project would also require maintenance and improvement dredging of approximately 7 miles of the Taunton River Federal Navigation Channel and a turning basin to enable the LNG tankers to access the proposed site. The dredging would occur in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The total volume of dredging is anticipated to be about 2,100,000 cubic yards. The dredged material would be disposed of in uplands at the terminal site or, if unsuitable for upland disposal, by either confined aquatic disposal cell, confined disposal, or ocean disposal methods.

The EIS Process

NEPA requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, or an import authorization under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act. NEPA also requires us to discover and address issues and concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EIS on the important environmental issues and reasonable alternatives. By this notice, we are requesting agency and public comments on the scope of the issues to be analyzed and presented in the EIS. All scoping comments received will be considered during the preparation of the EIS. To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section of this notice.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be included in a draft EIS. The draft EIS will be mailed to Federal,

local 508-678-5700, toll free 1-800-633-5700, or info@weaverscove.com (Web site will be available by July 31, 2003). Be as specific as you can about the location(s) of your area(s) of interest.

state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; affected landowners; other interested parties; local libraries and newspapers; and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A 45-day comment period will be allotted for review of the draft EIS. We will consider all comments on the draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. In addition, we will consider all comments on the final EIS before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EIS and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations and routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. 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 letter to: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of your comments for the attention of Gas Branch 1; and
- Reference Docket No. PF03-4-000 on the original and both copies.

Please note that we are continuing to experience delays in mail deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service. Therefore, the Commission encourages electronic filing of comments. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Internet Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the "e-Filing" link and the link to the User's Guide. Prepare your submission in the same manner as you would if filing on paper and save it to a file on your hard drive. Before you can file comments you will need to create an account by clicking on "Login to File" and then "New User Account." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. This filing is considered a "Comment on Filing."

Public Scoping Meeting

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, we invite you to attend a public scoping meeting that we will conduct in conjunction with the Massachusetts Executive Office of