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USCG-2004-18680-40

1 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD and
2 THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

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8 DEEPWATER PORT LICENSE APPLICATION DRAFT

9 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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19 Transcript of Public Meeting held in
20 the above captioned on Thursday, the 15th day
21 of July, 2004, at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel,
22 214 E. Kaliste Saloom Road, Lafayette,
23 Louisiana, commencing at 5:00 p.m.

24

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ASSOCIATED REPORTERS, INC.
(337) 988-0556

1 APPEARANCES:

2 ROBERT CORBIN

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF

4 DEEPWATER PORT STANDARDS DIVISION,

5 U. S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS

6

7 ENGINEERING-ENVIRONMENTAL

8 MANAGEMENT, INC.

9 (BY: ALAN J. FINIO)

10 PROJECT MANAGER

11 111 PRESIDENTIAL BOULEVARD, SUITE 234

12 BALA CYNWYD, PA 19004

13 TELEPHONE: (610) 949-9699

14

15 JOAN LANG

16 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

17 DEEPWATER PORT STANDARD DIVISION

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19

20 MALCOLM CARRIERE

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23 REPORTED BY:

24 SANDRA L. SONNIER

25 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

1 MS. LANG:

2 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very
3 much for coming to our public meeting on the
4 Draft EIS for the Gulf Landing Project. We're
5 going to have several presentations. Actually
6 Mr. Corbin from the Coast Guard who will
7 introduce himself and Mr. Finio from E-2-M who
8 is an environmental contractor will also give a
9 short presentation of the project, the EIS
10 process and where we are and where we're going.
11 And then after that we will call on speakers,
12 people who want to make comments about this and
13 we do have some ground rules for that which I
14 will go into later.

15 MR. CORBIN:

16 Thank you, Joan. Good evening, ladies
17 and gentlemen, and welcome to this public
18 meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to
19 provide you the opportunity to provide comments
20 on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement the
21 federal government has prepared with regard to
22 the Shell application for a license to own,
23 construct, and operate a natural gas deepwater
24 port in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of
25 Louisiana. This meeting was announced in

1 the Federal Register on June 25th.

2 My name is Bob Corbin and I am the
3 Assistant Chief of the Deepwater Port Standards
4 Division, U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters.
5 Accompanying me is Mr. Alan Finio of
6 Engineering-Environmental Management.

7 As background information, in 1974 Congress
8 passed the Deepwater Port Act to license and
9 regulate deepwater ports for the handling of
10 oil. The administrator of the Maritime
11 Administration through authority delegated by
12 the Secretary of Transportation is responsible
13 for issuing the license. The secretary has
14 delegated the processing of deepwater port
15 applications to the Coast Guard and the
16 Maritime Administration. Over the past thirty
17 years only one deepwater port was licensed and
18 is in operation off the coast of Louisiana.

19 In November, 2002 Congress passed the
20 Maritime Transportation Security Act which
21 amended the Deepwater Port Act by extending
22 it's application to natural gas. In a span of
23 twenty months since the passage of that Act,
24 the Coast Guard and MARAD have received eight
25 applications for natural gas deepwater ports.

1 One of those applications was submitted on
2 November 3rd, 2003 by Gulf Landing LLC, to own,
3 construct, and operate a natural gas deepwater
4 port in the Gulf of Mexico thirty-eight miles
5 off the coast of Cameron Parish, Louisiana.
6 This is referred to as the Gulf Landing
7 application. For this application, Louisiana
8 has been designated as the adjacent coastal
9 state.

10 The law requires the Coast Guard and MARAD
11 to determine if an application contains all the
12 required information. On January 22nd, 2004,
13 the Coast Guard and MARAD published a notice in
14 the Federal Register stating that we had
15 received the Gulf Landing application and that
16 it appeared to contain the required
17 information. That notice provides further
18 technical details about the Gulf Landing
19 application.

20 To issue a deepwater port license, the
21 secretary must find that the applicant is
22 financially responsible, can and will comply
23 with applicable laws and regulations, and that
24 construction of the port is in the national
25 interest. In addition, a deepwater port must

1 not interfere with international navigation or
2 other reasonable uses of the high seas. And
3 the construction of the port must represent the
4 best available technology to minimize adverse
5 impacts on the environment. In this regard,
6 the Coast Guard determined that an
7 Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared
8 in accordance with the National Environmental
9 Policy Act.

10 We indicated our intent to prepare an
11 Environmental Impact Statement or EIS in the
12 February 27th, 2004, Federal Register. This
13 Notice of Intent also initiated a thirty day
14 scoping period to receive public comment on
15 issues the federal government should consider
16 when preparing the EIS. A public -- excuse me.

17 A public scoping meeting was held on March
18 16th, 2004. No public comments were received
19 during the scoping period. On June 25th, 2004,
20 both the Coast Guard and MARAD and the United
21 States Environmental Protection Agency each
22 published separate notices of availability of
23 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
24 in the Federal Register.

25 The intent of this public meeting is to

1 receive your input on the Draft EIS. I would
2 like to emphasize that this meeting will not be
3 the only opportunity that you have to provide
4 input on this application. You may provide
5 written comments on the Draft EIS and they
6 should be received by August 9th, 2004.
7 Additionally, as required by the Deepwater Port
8 Act, we will hold at least one public hearing
9 in the adjacent coastal state to consider the
10 Gulf Landing application.

11 I would now like to provide you with a
12 brief overview of the Coast Guard's
13 responsibilities regarding this application.
14 The Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration
15 work together processing Deepwater Port License
16 Applications. Although the Maritime
17 Administrator will ultimately decide whether or
18 not to grant the license for this proposed
19 deepwater port, the Coast Guard is the lead
20 agency developing a significant amount of the
21 input for that decision.

22 Specifically, the Coast Guard is
23 responsible for the development of the EIS. In
24 carrying out this responsibility, we continue
25 to seek input from the public as well as from

1 other federal and state agencies. The Coast
2 Guard will also be responsible for the
3 evaluation of proposed engineering design
4 standards, the development of operations, water
5 waste management, and maritime safety and
6 security requirements, and compliance with
7 various domestic laws and regulations for the
8 LNG vessels calling on the deepwater port.

9 In closing I want to make it perfectly
10 clear the Coast Guard is neither an opponent of
11 nor a proponent for any deepwater port project.

12 At this time, I'd like to introduce Mr.
13 Alan Finio of Engineering Environmental
14 Management to describe his part in the
15 environmental review process.

16 MR. FINIO:

17 Good evening. My name is Alan Finio.
18 I work for Engineering Environmental
19 Management. We've been -- we work with the
20 Coast Guard. We were hired by the Coast Guard
21 to help facilitate the National Environmental
22 Policy Act, NEPA. And in doing so I wanted to
23 spend some time outlining the public comment
24 and the public review process that goes along
25 with NEPA as part of those regulations and to

1 provide you with some background on the
2 commenting process and the existing, what we're
3 doing today, and what's coming up as this
4 process progresses.

5 As Bob spoke of earlier, U. S. Coast Guard
6 and MARAD published in the Federal Register a
7 Notice of Application on January 22nd. This
8 notice did -- the purpose of this notice was to
9 provide the public with a little background on
10 the project and inform them that the
11 application had been received and was being
12 reviewed by Coast Guard.

13 On February 22nd or 27th, 2004, a Notice of
14 Intent was published in the Federal Register by
15 U. S. Coast Guard and MARAD to announce their
16 intent to do an EIS and to solicit comments
17 from the public to announce the public scoping
18 meeting and to provide the public with various
19 -- an outline of the various methods for making
20 public comment.

21 On March 16th, 2004, that scoping meeting
22 was held here in Lafayette and in a form
23 similar to the one that we're having today. It
24 was a -- both the applicant and Coast Guard
25 presented information to the public and

1 solicited comments and the public was given an
2 opportunity there to present comments. And
3 also the other methods of providing comments
4 were distributed at that meeting also.

5 This Notice of Intent was also published in
6 several newspapers, regional newspapers,
7 announcing this -- the meeting and the Notice
8 of Intent, soliciting comments from the public.
9 The notice was also mailed to state, federal,
10 and other interested parties as another method
11 of informing the public.

12 That period that -- starting on February
13 27th, that period lasted thirty days, that
14 scoping period. Scoping period was closed and
15 each one, Coast Guard and MARAD, began work on
16 the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS was finalized and
17 the Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS
18 was published in the Federal Register by EPA
19 and U. S. Coast Guard and MARAD as separate
20 notices on January -- or on June 25th, 2004.

21 That Notice of Availability announced to
22 the public again that the Draft was available
23 for review. It announced where the public
24 could review it, how they could get copies if
25 they so desired and that we sent the Draft to

1 several regional libraries in Louisiana, gave
2 the locations and address and phone numbers and
3 addresses for those libraries if the public was
4 interested. It also noticed that the Draft
5 would be available on the Department of
6 Transportation's docket used by U. S. Coast
7 Guard and MARAD to disseminate information to
8 the public, that the Draft EIS is available
9 there in electronic format. The public was
10 also given the opportunity to ask for a paper
11 copy or an electronic copy.

12 The Federal Register notice also gave
13 methods for soliciting comments and outlined
14 those -- those methods for the public and
15 noticed this meeting that we're having today.
16 That notice also was published in the news --
17 in various -- in the newspapers and also went
18 to the interested parties around the state.

19 The comment period for the Draft EIS is
20 forty-five days and it started on the 25th of
21 June, will close on August 9th, 2004. After
22 that time, U. S. Coast Guard and MARAD will
23 produce a -- will start work on the final EIS.
24 And the final EIS will be published sometime --
25 notice of availability will be published

1 sometime in September.

2 On the same track but not directly
3 connected to either process, there will be a
4 meeting in September, no later than September
5 17th, 2004, public hearing on the application
6 itself where U. S. Coast Guard and MARAD will
7 take public comment on the application itself.
8 At that -- at that meeting, the public will
9 also be given the opportunity to comment on --
10 further on the EIS.

11 The final EIS will have -- there will be a
12 thirty day comment period after the EIS
13 published in -- the final EIS is published in
14 September and then there will be a thirty day
15 comment period on the final EIS, minimum of
16 thirty days. May last longer, but that
17 outlines the process. If, you know, anybody
18 has any questions, that will be fine. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. CORBIN:

21 Thank you, Mr. Finio. Now, we need to
22 hear your input and comments on the Draft EIS.
23 Ms. Joan Lang who is a member of the Coast
24 Guard's Deepwater Port Standard's Division will
25 explain the process we will use to receive your

1 inputs and comments.

2 MS. LANG:

3 Again, my point -- my job at this point
4 in the meeting is to facilitate your comment
5 process to make sure that everyone had -- who
6 has signed up has a chance to speak and keep
7 things moving along smoothly. To assure that
8 the meeting procedures are followed, we have
9 some ground rules.

10 Speakers will be recognized in the
11 following order: Elected officials, public
12 agencies following a sequence of municipal,
13 county, state, and federal, individuals or
14 groups in the order of which they signed up on
15 the speaker's list.

16 I will call to podium one by one so that
17 only one person will speak at a time so the
18 Court Reporter will be able to record each
19 person's comments. When you begin your oral
20 comment, please identify yourself by name and
21 affiliation if applicable. The Court Reporter
22 will record a transcript of this meeting and
23 all comments. So please state your name
24 clearly and spell it if it's requested and
25 speak clearly during your oral comment.

1 Each person may speak for no more than five
2 minutes. This includes elected officials and
3 any other public agency representatives. Hand
4 signals are used to indicate when three minutes
5 have passed. It will be just one finger and
6 then I'll wave. And when your time is up,
7 you'll have a closed fist. We ask that you
8 finish your sentence and then sit down.

9 If any speakers have prepared written
10 comments in addition to the oral comments, you
11 can provide them to me. Comments do not need
12 to be given orally and written. They will all
13 be given the same consideration and speaking
14 times may not be combined. In other words, a
15 speaker cannot give up his minutes to another
16 speaker. Is there any questions about the
17 process or the procedures? Okay. My
18 understanding is we've not had any speakers
19 sign up.

20 MR. CORBIN:

21 Is there anybody from the public that
22 would like to speak? Sir, would you please
23 stand up, state your name and your organization
24 so the Court Reporter can record it and then
25 you have up to five minutes to speak.

1 MR. CARRIERE:

2 My name is Malcolm Carriere. I'm a
3 private citizen. I live here in Louisiana.
4 I'm here today not for it or against it. I'm
5 trying to learn about LNG and the safety of it.
6 I know what LNG is as far as natural gas.

7 I did a little research on it where in 1944
8 in Cleveland, Ohio, we had the first LNG
9 accident. This year, 2004, in January in
10 Africa they had an incident that happened also.
11 My concerns are basically how safe is it.

12 I understand this is an offshore port --
13 port. I'd like to know if the Coast Guard,
14 what are their regulations for LNG. Are they
15 going to treat it just like the super port here
16 in Louisiana? You know, how do you --
17 basically it's about safety.

18 And, like I said, LNG's been around, but
19 it's coming to Louisiana in a big way. And
20 basically I'd like to know how safe it is.
21 What's the Coast Guard response to a spill? If
22 it's a large one, how do you contain it? Will
23 it burn? What will happen? I've heard that it
24 will not burn, but yet the plant in Africa
25 burnt in eight hours. So I've also learned

1 that LNG, a lot of times will have LPG which is
2 real flammable.

3 So basically I'm just here tonight to voice
4 my concerns about the safety of it and
5 hopefully that -- I'm not opposing it, that
6 they will feel that a facility that is the
7 safest with the highest standards in the
8 industry because it'll be right offshore of our
9 coast. And I thank you for your time.

10 MR. CORBIN:

11 Thank you very much, sir. Okay. Are
12 there any other members from the public that
13 would like to make an oral comment at this
14 time? Okay. I don't see any. Are there --
15 the member of the public that just made a
16 comment, would you like to make another comment
17 at this time?

18 MR. CARRIERE:

19 No, thank you.

20 MR. CORBIN:

21 Okay. Seeing as --

22 MS. LANG:

23 Half hour.

24 MR. CORBIN:

25 Okay. Seeing as how there are no other

1 speakers at this point in time, but because we
2 are required to remain until seven o'clock
3 tonight in the event that someone may be
4 getting here later, what we will do is we will
5 take -- we will take a half hour recess at
6 which point in time we'll come back in. We'll
7 start the meeting again and see if there are
8 any additional speakers at that point in time
9 or if the individual who has already spoken
10 would like to provide additional comments. So
11 if there's nobody else that would like to make
12 a comment now, we will adjourn for a recess for
13 a half an hour and then we will come back and
14 start the meeting again. Thank you.

15 (R E C E S S)

16 MR. CORBIN:

17 We're going to reconvene this public
18 meeting at this time. And this meeting, again,
19 is for public comment and input on the Draft
20 Environmental Impact Statement for the Gulf
21 Landing LLC Deepwater Port License Application.

22 At this time are there any members of the
23 public that have not had an opportunity to
24 speak that would like to speak? Seeing none.
25 Is there any member of the public who has

1 already spoken that would like the opportunity
2 to speak again? Okay. Seeing none.

3 Because we are required to continue holding
4 the hearing until seven p.m., we will take a
5 half hour recess and we will reconvene in a
6 half hour to see if there are any additional
7 public comments from individuals who may be
8 showing up to the meeting late. Meeting is
9 recessed at this time. Thank you.

10 (R E C E S S)

11 MR. CORBIN:

12 At this time we'll reconvene our public
13 meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement for the Gulf Landing LLC Deepwater
15 Port License Application. At this time I'd
16 like to ask, is there anyone from the public
17 that would like to make any comments?

18 Seeing that there are none and the
19 gentleman that made the comment earlier is no
20 longer here, because we said we will keep this
21 meeting open until seven p.m., we will recess
22 the meeting at this point in time and we will
23 take a half hour recess and we will reconvene
24 one more time in the event there is anyone who
25 will get here late to show up for the meeting

1 to provide them the opportunity for public
2 comment. Meeting is adjourned and so --

3 MS. LANG:

4 It's recessed.

5 MR. CORBIN:

6 Oh, it's recessed, excuse me. Yes,
7 meeting is recessed until -- for a half hour.
8 Thank you.

9 (R E C E S S)

10 MR. CORBIN:

11 Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, it's just
12 about seven o'clock and we're going to
13 reconvene this public meeting on the Draft
14 Environmental Impact Statement for the Gulf
15 Landing LLC Deepwater Port License Application.

16 At this time I'd like to ask if there are
17 any new individuals who would like to make any
18 public comments with respect to this meeting?
19 There are none. The gentleman who made the
20 public comment earlier is no longer here.

21 At this point then everyone who has wanted
22 to speak has had the opportunity. I would like
23 to thank everyone for coming to today's public
24 meeting and I appreciate the input that was
25 provided. And at this point in time, this

1 public meeting is adjourned. Thank you very
2 much.

3 MS. LANG:

4 Thank you.

5 (WHEREUPON THIS PUBLIC MEETING

6 CONCLUDED AT 7:00 P.M.)

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1 R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

2 I, SANDRA L. SONNIER, Certified Shorthand
3 Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana,
4 before whom this meeting was taken, do hereby
5 state on the Record:

6 That due to the interaction in the
7 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,
8 dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses,
9 changes in thought, and/or talkovers;

10 That same is the proper method for a Court
11 Reporter's transcription of proceedings, and
12 that the dashes (--) do not indicate that words
13 or phrases have been left out of this
14 transcript;

15 That any words and/or names which could not
16 be verified through reference material have
17 been denoted with the phrase "(spelled
18 phonetically)."

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SANDRA L. SONNIER

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Certified Shorthand Reporter

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, SANDRA L. SONNIER, Certified Court
3 Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as
4 the officer before whom this meeting was taken,
5 do hereby certify that the foregoing 20 pages
6 was reported by me in machine shorthand and
7 transcribed by me or under my personal
8 direction and supervision, and is a true and
9 correct record of the meeting, to the best of
10 my ability and understanding;

11

12 That I am not of counsel, not related to
13 counsel or the parties herein, nor am I
14 otherwise interested in the outcome of this
15 matter.

16

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SANDRA L. SONNIER
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Louisiana C.C.R. Number 75008

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