

Consideration of a deepwater port license application includes review of the proposed deepwater port's natural and human environmental impacts. The Coast Guard is the lead agency for determining the scope of this review, and in this case the Coast Guard has determined that review must include preparation of an EIS. This notice of intent is required by 40 CFR 1508.22, and briefly describes the proposed action and possible alternatives and our proposed scoping process. You can address any questions about the proposed action, the scoping process, or the EIS to the Coast Guard project manager identified in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed action requiring environmental review is the Federal licensing of the proposed deepwater port described in "Summary of the Application" below. The alternatives to licensing the proposed port are: (1) Licensing with conditions (including conditions designed to mitigate environmental impact), and (2) denying the application, which for purposes of environmental review is the "no-action" alternative.

Scoping Process

Public scoping is an early and open process for identifying and determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Scoping begins with this notice, continues through the public comment period (see **DATES**), and ends when the Coast Guard has completed the following actions:

- Invites the participation of Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, the applicant, and other interested persons;
 - Determines the actions, alternatives, and impacts described in 40 CFR 1508.25;
 - Identifies and eliminates from detailed study those issues that are not significant or that have been covered elsewhere;
 - Allocates responsibility for preparing EIS components;
 - Indicates any related environmental assessments or environmental impact statements that are not part of the EIS;
 - Identifies other relevant environmental review and consultation requirements;
 - Indicates the relationship between timing of the environmental review and other aspects of the application process; and
 - At its discretion, exercises the options provided in 40 CFR 1501.7(b).
- Once the scoping process is complete, the Coast Guard will prepare a draft EIS,

and we will publish a **Federal Register** notice announcing its public availability. (If you want that notice to be sent to you, please contact the Coast Guard project manager identified in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.) You will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft EIS. The Coast Guard will consider those comments and then prepare the final EIS. As with the draft EIS, we will announce the availability of the final EIS and once again give you an opportunity for review and comment.

Summary of the Application

Neptune LNG, L.L.C. proposes to construct, own and operate a deepwater port, named Neptune, in the Federal waters of the Outer Continental Shelf on blocks NK 19-04 6525 and NK 19-04 6575, approximately 22 miles northeast of Boston, Massachusetts, and approximately 7 miles south-southeast of Gloucester, Massachusetts, in a water depth of approximately 250 feet. The Neptune deepwater port would be capable of mooring up to two approximately 140,000 cubic meter capacity LNG carriers by means of a submerged unloading buoy system.

The LNG carriers, or shuttle regasification vessels (SRVs), would be equipped to store, transport and vaporize LNG, and to odorize and meter natural gas which would then be sent out by conventional subsea pipelines. Each SRV would have insulated storage tanks located within its hull. Each tank would be equipped with an in-tank pump to circulate and transfer LNG to the vaporization facilities located on the deck of the SRV. The proposed vaporization system would be closed-loop water-glycol, re-circulating heat exchangers heated by steam from boil-off gas/vaporized LNG-fired boilers.

The major fixed components of the proposed deepwater port would be an unloading buoy system, eight mooring lines consisting of wire rope and chain connecting to anchor points on the seabed, eight suction pile anchor points, approximately 2.5 miles of natural gas flow line with flexible pipe risers and risers manifolds, and approximately 11 miles of 24-inch natural gas transmission line with a hot tap and transition manifold to connect to the existing Algonquin HublineSM.

Neptune would have an average throughput capacity of 400 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd) and a peak capacity of approximately 750 MMscfd. Natural gas would be sent out by means of two flexible risers and a subsea flowline leading to a 24-inch gas transmission line. These risers and flow line would connect the deepwater

port to the existing 30-inch Algonquin HublineSM. No onshore components or storage facilities are associated with the proposed deepwater port application.

Construction of the deepwater port components would be expected to take 36 months, with a startup of commercial operations in late 2009. The deepwater port would be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with applicable codes and standards and would have an expected operating life of approximately 20 years.

In addition, pipelines within the three-mile limit require an Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Structures such as the moorings and lateral pipelines beyond the three-mile limit require a Section 10 permit.

As required by their regulations, the USACE will maintain a permit file. The USACE New England District phone number is 978-318-8338 and their Web site is <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. The new pipeline will be included in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review as part of the deepwater port application process. The USACE, as a cooperating agency, will assist in the NEPA process as described in 40 CFR 1501.6; will be participating in the scoping meetings; and will conduct joint public meetings with the Coast Guard and MARAD when the draft EIS is released for public comment. Comments sent to the USACE will also be incorporated into the DOT docket and EIS to ensure consistency with the NEPA Process.

Dated: October 13, 2005.

Howard L. Hime,

Acting Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection, U.S. Coast Guard.

H. Keith Lesnick,

Senior Transportation Specialist, Deepwater Ports Program Manager, U.S. Maritime Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[USCG-2005-22702]

National Boating Safety Advisory Council

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) and its subcommittees on boats and associated

equipment, aftermarket marine equipment, and prevention through people will meet to discuss various issues relating to recreational boating safety. All meetings will be open to the public.

DATES: NBSAC will meet on Saturday, November 12, 2005, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., on Monday, November 14, 2005, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Tuesday, November 15, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The Prevention Through People Subcommittee will meet on Sunday, November 13, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The Boats and Associated Equipment Subcommittee will meet on Sunday, November 13, 2005, from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Planning Subcommittee will meet on Monday, November 14, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. These meetings may close early if all business is finished. On Sunday, November 13, a Subcommittee meeting may start earlier if the preceding Subcommittee meeting has closed early. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before Tuesday, October 25, 2005. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or subcommittees in advance of the meeting should reach the Coast Guard on or before Tuesday, October 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: NBSAC will meet at the Crowne Plaza, 1480 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. The subcommittee meetings will be held at the same address. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Ms. Jeanne Timmons, Executive Director of NBSAC, Commandant (G-OPB-1), telephone 202-267-1077, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> or at the Web site for the Office of Boating Safety at URL address www.uscgboating.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jeanne Timmons, Executive Director of NBSAC, telephone 202-267-1077, fax 202-267-4285. You may obtain a copy of this notice by calling the U.S. Coast Guard Infoline at 1-800-368-5647.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Tentative Agendas of Meetings

National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC). The agenda includes the following:

(1) Remarks—Rear Admiral Gary T. Blore, Director of Operations Policy and Council Sponsor.

(2) Swearing in of recent appointees (includes new members and continued members).

(2) Chief, Office of Boating Safety Update on NBSAC Resolutions and Recreational Boating Safety Program report.

(3) Executive Director's report.

(4) Chairman's session.

(5) Report from TSAC Liaison.

(6) Report from NAVSAC Liaison.

(7) Coast Guard Auxiliary report.

(8) National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Report.

(9) Wallop Breaux reauthorization update.

(10) National Transportation Safety Board report.

(11) Update on Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) on the market for children, including Swimsuit Style

(12) Prevention Through People Subcommittee report.

(13) Boats and Associated Equipment Subcommittee report.

(14) Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Planning Subcommittee report.

Prevention Through People Subcommittee. The agenda includes the following: Discuss current projects and new issues impacting prevention through people.

Boats and Associated Equipment Subcommittee. The agenda includes the following: Discuss current projects and new issues impacting boats and associated equipment.

Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Planning Subcommittee. The agenda includes the following: Discuss current projects and new issues impacting Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Planning.

Procedural

All meetings are open to the public. At the Chairs' discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meetings. If you would like to make an oral presentation at a meeting, please notify the Executive Director of your request no later than Tuesday, October 25, 2005. Written material for distribution at a meeting should reach the Coast Guard no later than Tuesday, October 25, 2005. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or subcommittee in advance of a meeting, please submit 25 copies to the Executive Director no later than Tuesday, October 25, 2005.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities

or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: October 14, 2005.

James M. Hass,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Director of Operations Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment of an Incidental Take Permit and the 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan for Kern County Waste Facilities, Kern County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) advises the public that we intend to gather information necessary to prepare, in coordination with the Kern County Waste Management Department (KCWMD), a joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Amendment to the Kern County Waste Facilities Habitat Conservation Plan and permit number 830963 (Amendment 1). Amendment 1 is being prepared under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (ESA). Amendment 1 addresses potential take of threatened and endangered species at Kern County waste facilities due to the proposed expansion of the permit area, new covered activities, and an increase in the number of species covered by Permit 830963. The term of Permit 830963 shall remain at 50 years, expiring in 2047. KCWMD intends to request an ESA permit amendment for 5 species federally listed as threatened or endangered and 14 unlisted species that may become listed during the term of the permit.

The Service provides this notice to: (1) Describe the proposed action and possible alternatives; (2) advise other Federal and State agencies, affected Tribes, and the public of our intent to prepare an EIS/EIR; (3) announce the initiation of a public scoping period; and (4) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be included in the EIS/EIR. Written comments will be accepted at the public meeting. In addition, you may submit