



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG-2016-0374]

Waterway Suitability Assessment for Construction and Operation of Liquefied Gas Terminals;
Sabine-Neches Waterway, Vidor, TX

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Jefferson Railport Terminal 1 (Texas) LLC, has submitted a Letter of Intent and Preliminary Waterway Suitability Assessment to the Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP), Port Arthur, TX regarding the company's plans to construct, own and operate a waterfront facility handling and storing Liquefied Hazardous Gas (LHG) at its Vidor, TX facility located on the Sabine-Neches Waterway. The Coast Guard is notifying the public of this action to solicit public comments on the proposed increase in LHG marine traffic on the Sabine-Neches Waterway.

DATES: Comments must be submitted to the online docket via <http://www.regulations.gov>, or reach the Docket Management Facility, on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG-2016-0374 using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. See the "Public Participation and Request for Comments" portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for further instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information about this notice, call or e-mail Chief Petty Officer Jamie L. Merriman, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 409-719-5033, e-mail jamie.l.merriman@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation and Comments:

We encourage you to submit comments or related material in response to this notice. We will consider all submissions and may adjust our final action based on your comments. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <http://www.regulations.gov>, contact the person in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document for alternate instructions. Documents mentioned in this notice, and all public comments, are in our online docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that website's instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted or a final rule is published.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and the docket, you may review a Privacy Act notice regarding the Federal Docket Management System in the March 24, 2005, issue of the Federal Register (70 FR 15086).
Discussion, Basis, and Purpose:

Under 33 CFR 127.007(a), an owner or operator planning to build a new facility handling Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) or Liquefied Hazardous Gas (LHG), where the construction, expansion, or modification would result in an increase in the size and/or frequency of LNG or LHG marine traffic on the waterway associated with the facility, must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the COTP of the zone in which the facility is located. Under 33 CFR 127.007(e), an owner or operator planning such an expansion must also file or update a Waterway Suitability Assessment (WSA) that addresses the proposed increase in LNG or LHG marine traffic in the associated waterway. Jefferson Railport Terminal 1 (Texas) LLC, located in Vidor, TX submitted an LOI and WSA on March 7, 2016, regarding the company's proposed construction and operation of LHG capabilities at its Vidor, TX facility.

Under 33 CFR 127.009, after receiving an LOI, the COTP issues a Letter of Recommendation (LOR) as to the suitability of the waterway for LNG or LHG marine traffic to the appropriate jurisdictional authorities. The LOR is based on a series of factors outlined in 33 CFR 127.009 that relate to the physical nature of the affected waterway and issues of safety and security associated with LNG or LHG marine traffic on the affected waterway.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit public comments on the proposed increase in LHG marine traffic on the Sabine-Neches Waterway. The Coast Guard believes that input from the public may be useful to the COTP with respect to development of the LOR. Additionally, the Coast Guard intends to task the Area Maritime Security Committee, Port Arthur, TX and the Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Council with forming a subcommittee comprised of affected port users and stakeholders. The goal of this subcommittee will be to gather information to help the COTP assess the suitability of the associated waterway for increased LHG marine traffic as it relates to navigational safety and security.

On January 24, 2011, the Coast Guard published Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 01-2011, “Guidance Related to Waterfront Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Facilities”. NVIC 01-2011 provides guidance for owners and operators seeking approval to build and operate LNG facilities. While NVIC 01-2011 is specific to LNG, it provides useful process information and guidance for owners and operators seeking approval to build and operate LHG facilities as well. The Coast Guard will refer to NVIC 01-2011 for process information and guidance in evaluating Jefferson Railport Terminal 1’s WSA. A copy of NVIC 01-2011 is available for viewing in the public docket for this notice and also on the Coast Guard’s website at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/2010s.asp>.

This notice is issued under authority of 33 U.S.C. 1223-1225, Department of Homeland Security Delegation Number 0170.1(70), 33 CFR 127.009, and 33 CFR 103.205.

Dated: May 27, 2016.

R. S. Ogrydziak,
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,
Captain of the Port, Port Arthur .
[FR Doc. 2016-14910 Filed: 6/22/2016 8:45 am; Publication Date: 6/23/2016]