



BILLING CODE 6717-01-P  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Port Arthur Pipeline, LLC

Docket No. PF17-5-000

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PLANNED  
**LOUISIANA CONNECTOR PROJECT,**  
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES,  
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING SESSIONS

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Port Arthur Louisiana Connector Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Port Arthur Pipeline, LLC (PAPL) in Jefferson County, Texas and Cameron, Calcasieu, Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline, and St. Landry Parishes, Louisiana. The Commission will use this EIS in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EIS. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before June 24, 2017.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission **before** the opening of this docket on February 24, 2017, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. PF17-5-000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the planned facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable

agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings where compensation would be determined 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 available for viewing on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)). 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.

### **Public Participation**

For your convenience, there are four methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission will provide equal consideration to all comments received, whether filed in written form or provided verbally. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov). Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

- 1) You can file your comments electronically using the [eComment](#) feature on the Commission’s website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;
- 2) You can file your comments electronically by using the [eFiling](#) feature on the Commission’s website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on “[eRegister](#).” If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select “Comment on a Filing” as the filing type; or
- 3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address. Be sure to reference the project docket number (PF17-5-000) with your submission:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE, Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

- 4) In lieu of sending written or electronic comments, the Commission invites you to attend one of the public scoping sessions its staff will conduct in the project area, scheduled as follows:

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Monday, June 12, 2017 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm	West-Cal Arena & Events Center Exhibit Hall B and Cyprus Meeting Room 401 Arena Road Sulphur, LA 70665 337-528-9378
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Coushatta Casino Resort – Koasati Pines Golf Course Veranda Room 300 Koasati Drive Kinder, LA 70648 1-800-584-7263
Wednesday, June 14, 2017 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Louisiana State University – Eunice Community Education Building, Room C118 LSUE Campus Dr. Eunice, LA 70535 337-550-1390

The primary goal of these scoping sessions is to have you identify the specific environmental issues and concerns that should be considered in the EIS to be prepared for this project. Individual verbal comments will be taken on a one-on-one basis with a court reporter. This format is designed to receive the maximum amount of verbal comments, in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted.

Each scoping session is scheduled from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm central daylight time. You may arrive at any time after 4:30 pm. There will not be a formal presentation by Commission staff when the session opens. If you wish to speak, the Commission staff will hand out numbers in the order of your arrival. Comments will be taken until 7:30 pm. However, if no additional numbers have been handed out and all individuals who wish to provide comments have had an opportunity to do so, staff may conclude the

session at 7 pm. Please see appendix 1 for additional information on the session format and conduct.<sup>1</sup>

Your scoping comments will be recorded by the court reporter (with FERC staff or representative present) and become part of the public record for this proceeding. Transcripts will be publicly available on FERC's eLibrary system (see below for instructions on using eLibrary). If a significant number of people are interested in providing verbal comments in the one-on-one settings, a time limit of 3 to 5 minutes may be implemented for each commentor.

It is important to note that verbal comments hold the same weight as written or electronically submitted comments. Although there will not be a formal presentation, Commission staff will be available throughout the comment session to answer your questions about the environmental review process. Representatives from PAPL will also be present to answer project-specific questions.

Please note this is not your only public input opportunity; please refer to the review process flow chart in appendix 2.

### **Summary of the Planned Project**

PAPL plans to construct and operate an interstate natural gas transmission system in Texas and Louisiana. The project would provide about 2.0 billion square cubic feet per day of natural gas to supply a proposed natural gas liquefaction and export project in Jefferson County, Texas<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the Federal Register. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

<sup>2</sup> This export project is referred to as the Port Arthur Liquefaction Project. It, along with the Port Arthur Pipeline Project, are also being reviewed by FERC under Docket Nos. CP17-20-000 and CP17-21-000 and will be evaluated in the same EIS as the Louisiana Connector Project. The Port Arthur Liquefaction Project would involve the installation of a liquefaction facility for the exportation of natural gas near Port Arthur in Jefferson County, Texas. The Port Arthur Pipeline Project would involve the construction and operation of about 34 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Orange and Jefferson Counties, Texas and Cameron Parish, Louisiana, and would also provide a source of gas for the liquefaction facility.

The Port Arthur Louisiana Connector Project would consist of the following facilities:

- a 131-mile-long, 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Jefferson County, Texas and Cameron, Calcasieu, Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline, and St. Landry Parishes, Louisiana;
- a new compressor station in Allen Parish, Louisiana;
- eight interconnects and meter stations in Jefferson County, Texas and Allen, Evangeline, and St. Landry Parishes, Louisiana; and
- appurtenant underground and aboveground facilities.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 3.

### **Land Requirements for Construction**

Construction of the planned project would disturb about 1,980 acres of land for the pipeline and aboveground facilities. Following construction, PAPL would maintain about 790 acres for permanent operation of the pipeline project; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. About 83 percent of the planned pipeline route parallels existing pipeline, utility, or road rights-of-way.

### **The EIS Process**

The National Environmental Policy Act (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. NEPA also requires us<sup>3</sup> to discover and address 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. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EIS. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EIS.

In the EIS we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the planned project under these general headings:

- geology and soils;
- land use;

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<sup>3</sup> “We,” “us,” and “our” refer to the environmental staff of the Commission’s Office of Energy Projects.

- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- socioeconomics;
- air quality and noise;
- endangered and threatened species;
- public safety; and
- cumulative impacts.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the planned project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Although no formal application has been filed, we have already initiated our NEPA review under the Commission's pre-filing process. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to encourage early involvement of interested stakeholders and to identify and resolve issues before the FERC receives an application. As part of our pre-filing review, we have begun to contact some federal and state agencies to discuss their involvement in the scoping process and the preparation of the EIS.

The EIS will present our independent analysis of the issues. We will publish and distribute the draft EIS for public comment. After the comment period, we will consider all timely comments and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section, beginning on page 2.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues related to this project to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS.<sup>4</sup> Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice. Currently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have expressed their intention to participate as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS to satisfy their NEPA responsibilities related to this project.

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<sup>4</sup> The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

## **Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act**

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project's potential effects on historic properties.<sup>5</sup> We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPOs as the project develops. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EIS for this project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

### **Currently Identified Environmental Issues**

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the planned facilities, the environmental information provided by PAPL, comments received at PAPL's open houses, and those comments filed to date. This preliminary list of issues may change based on your additional comments and our analysis:

- impacts on wetlands;
- construction in and potential impacts on aquatic resources in Sabine Lake;
- colocation with existing pipelines; and
- utilization of the same or similar rights-of-way as other proposed pipeline projects.

### **Environmental Mailing List**

The environmental mailing list includes: federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the

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<sup>5</sup> The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the planned project.

Copies of the completed draft EIS will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. **If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 4).**

### **Becoming an Intervenor**

Once PAPL files its application with the Commission, you may want to become an “intervenor” which is an official party to the Commission’s proceeding. Intervenor’s play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission’s final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Motions to intervene are more fully described at <http://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to/intervene.asp>. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are in the “Document-less Intervention Guide” under the “e-filing” link on the Commission’s website. Please note that the Commission will not accept requests for intervenor status at this time. You must wait until the Commission receives a formal application for the project.

### **Additional Information**

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission’s Office of External Affairs, at **(866) 208-FERC**, or on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on “General Search” and enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., PF17-5). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp).

Finally, public sessions or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at [www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx](http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx) along with other related information.

DATED: May 25, 2017

Kimberly D. Bose,  
Secretary.

# **Appendix 1**



## **FERC SESSION FORMAT AND CONDUCT**

### **Session Format**

FERC is conducting the session to solicit your scoping comments. There will not be a formal presentation by Commission staff; however, FERC staff is available to answer questions about the environmental review process. The session format is as follows:

- Tickets are handed out on a “first come, first serve” basis starting at the time listed in the Notice.
- Individuals are called in ticket number order to provide verbal comments to be transcribed by a court reporter for the public record.
- Time limits on verbal comments may be enforced to ensure that all those wishing to comment have the opportunity to do so within the designated session time.
- Written comments may be submitted in addition to, or in lieu of, verbal comments.
- Additional materials about FERC and the environmental review process are available at information stations at the session.

### **Session Conduct**

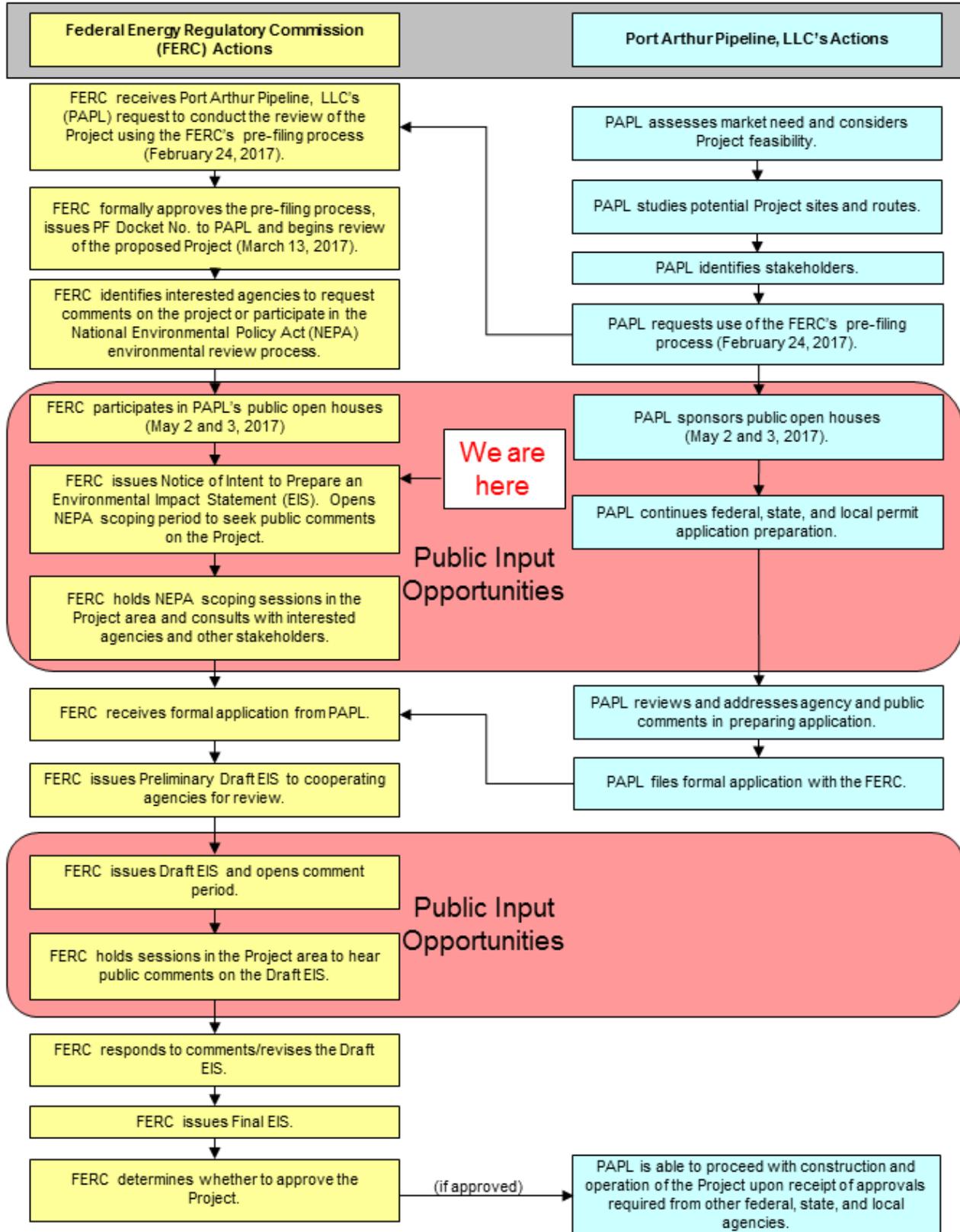
Proper conduct will help the sessions maintain a respectful atmosphere for attendees to learn about the FERC Environmental Review Process and to be able to provide comments effectively.

- Loudspeakers, lighting, oversized visual aids, or other visual or audible disturbances are not permitted.
- Disruptive video and photographic equipment may not be used.
- Conversations should be kept to a reasonable volume. Attendees should be respectful of those providing verbal comments to the court reporters.
- Recorded interviews are not permitted within the session space.
- FERC reserves the right end the session if disruptions interfere with the opportunity for individuals to provide verbal comments or if there is a safety or security risk.

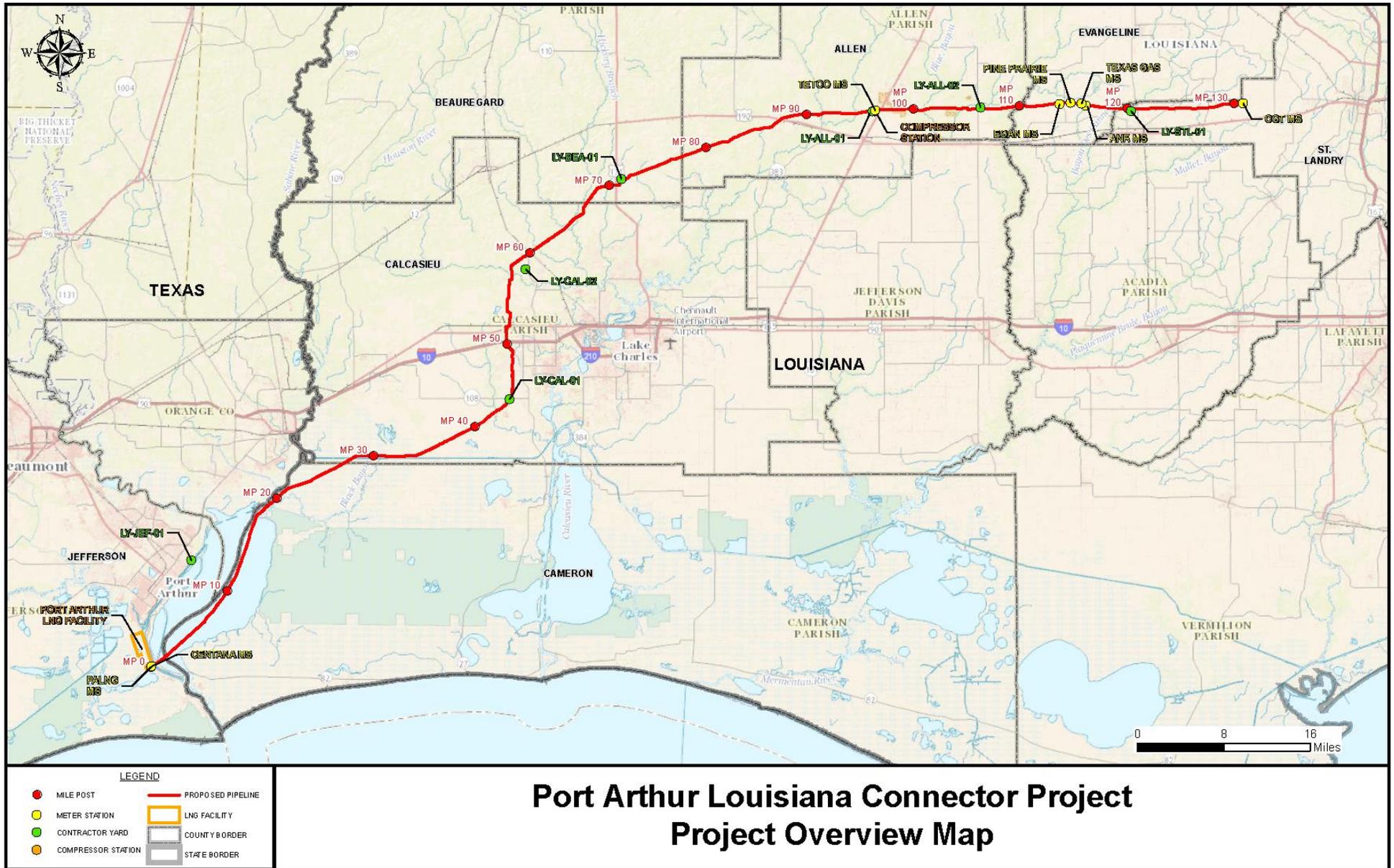
## **Appendix 2**



Port Arthur Louisiana Connector Project (PF17-5-000)  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Review Process



# **Appendix 3**



# **Appendix 4**

**INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Louisiana Connector Project**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send me a paper copy of the published NEPA document**

**Please remove my name from the mailing list**

**FROM**

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**ATTN: OEP - Gas 4, PJ - 11.4 (D.H., PM)**  
**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**  
**888 First Street NE**  
**Washington, DC 20426**

***Louisiana Connector Project***  
***PF17-5-000***

**Staple or Tape Here**