

Additional Request for Small Grants

The DOE also encourages small grant applications, to a maximum of \$33,000 total costs, for innovative and exploratory activities within the previously described areas. Such exploratory grants could be used to carry out pilot or investigative research on an issue consistent with any of the above areas of ELSI research, support a sabbatical leave to organize and hold a conference, or to initiate start-up studies that could generate preliminary data for a subsequent grant application. This program could be appropriate for a research scientist interested in exploring a related area of ELSI research, or a scholar conducting ELSI research of one type to explore an ELSI research topic of a different type. Such applications must use the standard DOE application forms which can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>, but the description of research activities should not be more than five pages and curriculum vitae should not exceed two pages. These small grants, which will be peer reviewed, will not extend beyond one year from the award date. It is expected that up to nine of these awards might be made in FY 2000. As with larger applications to this notice, applications should be sent to the address given above.

Program Funding

It is anticipated that approximately \$1,200,000 will be available for multiple grant awards including any small grants to be made during Fiscal Year 2000, contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Multiple year funding of grant awards is expected, and is also contingent upon the availability of funds. Previous awards have ranged from \$50,000 per year up to \$500,000 per year with terms from one to three years; most awards average about \$200,000 per year for two or three years not applicable for any small grants as stated above. Similar award sizes are anticipated for new grants. Generally, conference awards do not exceed \$25,000 and indirect costs are not allowed as part of conference grant awards.

Collaboration

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with researchers in other institutions, such as: universities, industry, non-profit organizations, federal laboratories and federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs), including the DOE National Laboratories, where appropriate, and to incorporate cost

sharing and/or consortia wherever feasible. Additional information on collaboration is available in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program that is available via the Internet at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/Colab.html>.

Preapplications

A brief preapplication should be submitted. The preapplication should identify, on the cover sheet, the institution, Principal Investigator name, address, telephone, fax and E-mail address, title of the project, and the field of scientific research. The preapplication should consist of a two to three page narrative describing the research project objectives and methods of accomplishment. These will be reviewed relative to the scope and research needs of the DOE's Human Genome Program. Preapplications are strongly encouraged but not required prior to submission of a full application. Please note that notification of a successful preapplication is not an indication that an award will be made in response to the formal application.

Applications will be subjected to a scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria listed in descending order of importance as codified at 10 CFR 605.10(d):

1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project,
2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach,
3. Competency of Applicant's Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources,
4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

The evaluation will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and an agency's programmatic needs. Note external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-federal reviewers may be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

Information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, selection process, and other policies and procedures may be found in 10 CFR part 605 and in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Electronic access to the Guide and required forms is made available via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/>

[grants/grants.html](http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html). DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications if an award is not made. DOE policy requires that potential applicants adhere to 10 CFR part 745 "Protection of Human Subjects", or such later revision of those guidelines as may be published in the **Federal Register**.

The Office of Science, as part of its grant regulations, requires at 10 CFR 605.11(b) that a recipient receiving a grant and performing research involving recombinant DNA molecules and/or organisms and viruses containing recombinant DNA molecules shall comply with the National Institutes of Health "Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules," which is available via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/odhsb/biosafe/nih/rdna-apr98.pdf>, (59 FR 34496, July 5, 1994), or such later revision of those guidelines as may be published in the **Federal Register**.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC on January 7, 2000.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 00-957 Filed 1-13-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP99-579-000 and CP99-580-000]

Southern LNG Inc.; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Elba Island Terminal Recommissioning Project

January 10, 2000.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas facilities proposed by Southern LNG Inc. (Southern LNG) in the above-referenced docket.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of facilities by Southern LNG. The project involves returning to active service Southern LNG's existing, certificated liquefied natural gas (LNG) marine import terminal near Savannah, Georgia (Elba Island Terminal). The existing authorized facilities at the Elba Island Terminal include the following:

- LNG unloading facilities, including marine berth, pier, and arms for unloading LNG from vessels;
- LNG storage facilities, including three double-wall storage tanks, each with the capacity of 400,000 barrels (4 billion cubic feet vaporized equivalent);
- LNG sendout facilities, including pumps and vaporizers with a maximum capacity of 540 million cubic feet per day;
 - Boil-off compressors;
 - Pressure relief, vent, and disposal systems;
 - Spill containment facilities, including a 400,000-barrel capacity main spill containment for each LNG storage tank; and
 - Fire water system sourced from a fresh-water pond and river water.

The storage and vaporization facilities would not be significantly altered, replaced or relocated. The storage and throughput capacity of the facilities would remain the same as originally placed in service in 1978. The recommissioning work will include the following:

- Install suction drum level control and minimum flow piping;
- Replace two LNG pumps;
- Install LNG recirculation piping;
- Install an additional boil-off compressor (1,000-horsepower);
- Install LNG tank level, density and temperature gauges;
 - Upgrade fire protection system;
 - Upgrade hazard detection system;
 - Install intrusion detection system;
 - Renew dredging of berthing area and turning basin;
 - Increase dredged material basin capacity;
 - Modify power distribution switchgear to allow parallel operation with utility (under consideration); and
 - Install distributed control and data acquisition system.

The proposed improvements would bring the facilities into compliance with applicable current code requirements and would update the safety, security, operability and reliability of the terminal.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be to provide open-access service to shippers desiring to contract for

receipt, storage, and vaporization of LNG and delivery of vaporized LNG at the existing point of interconnect with the interstate pipeline of Southern Natural Gas Company. The Elba Island Terminal has an average design natural gas sendout rate of 322 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD), with a maximum capacity of 540 MMSCFD.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your comments to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1;
- Reference Docket Nos. CP99-579-000 and CP99-588-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 11, 2000.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file later interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for later intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC Internet website

(www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Notice of Intent to File an Application for a New License

January 7, 2000.

a. *Type of Filing:* Notice of Intent to File An Application for a New License.

b. *Project No.:* 2177.

c. *Date Filed:* December 21, 1999.

d. *Submitted By:* Georgia Power Company—current licensee.

e. *Name of Project:* Middle

Chattahoochee Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the Chattahoochee River, near the cities of Columbus, Phenix City and Smith's, in Harris and Muscogee Counties, Georgia, and Chambers, Lee, and Russell Counties, Alabama.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Section 15 of the Federal Power Act.

h. *Licensee Contact:* George Martin, Georgia Power Company, 241 Ralph McGill Boulevard NE, Atlanta, GA 30308 (404) 506-1357.

i. *FERC Contact:* Tom Dean, thomas.dean@ferc.fed.us, (202) 219-2778, or Ron McKittrick, ronald.mckittrick@ferc.fed.us, (770) 452-3778 regarding the alternative licensing procedures.

j. *Effective date of current license:* January 1, 1955.

k. *Expiration date of current license:* December 31, 2004.

l. *Description of the Project:* The project consists of the following three developments:

The Goat Rock Development consists of the following existing facilities: (1) A