

U.S. Coast Guard and Maritime Administration

MARAD-2020-0127

Blue Marlin Offshore Port Project Environmental Impact Statement Proposed Action

INTRODUCTION

- The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), in coordination with the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Action in accordance with the Deepwater Port Act (DWPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and applicable regulations.
- MARAD may approve the license, deny the license, or approve the license with conditions for the proposed Blue Marlin Offshore Port (BMOP) Project. The EIS will assist the Maritime Administrator in deciding whether to approve the license application for the proposed BMOP Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- The BMOP Project includes a new build of approximately 37 miles of 42-inch-diameter crude oil pipeline from an existing tank terminal facility, the Nederland Terminal, near Nederland, Texas, to an existing 36-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline, the Stingray Pipeline, in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.
- The Stingray Pipeline would be converted from natural gas service to crude oil service for delivery to an existing offshore platform complex, the West Cameron lease block (WC) 509 Platform Complex.
- The existing offshore WC 509 Platform Complex would be converted to a dual-purpose crude oil and natural gas use. Part of the WC 509 Platform Complex would continue as a gas transmission platform after being reconfigured to redirect the gas to the Sea Robin Pipeline.
- The deepwater port would be capable of loading 80,000 barrels per hour onto very large crude carriers (VLCCs) or other crude oil carriers and be designed to load up to 365 ships per year. The BMOP Project would export various grades of crude oil.
- Construction is proposed to begin in the 4th quarter of 2021 with in-service in 2023.

ALTERNATIVES

A reasonable range of alternatives, including the Proposed Action, will be evaluated to determine if any changes to the natural and human environment that would result from the alternatives are reasonably foreseeable and would have a close causal relationship to the alternatives.

Alternatives to be evaluated include but are not limited to the following:

- Proposed Action;
- No action alternative;
- System alternatives;
- Location alternative for the deepwater port and onshore facilities (e.g., pump stations);
- Design alternatives for the deepwater port, catenary anchor leg mooring (CALM) buoy anchoring, and pipelines;
- Pipeline routing alternatives for onshore and offshore pipelines; and
- Alternative foundation/pile driving methods and designs.



U.S. Department of Transportation
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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments may be made verbally during the virtual or in-person public meetings and/or in writing via the Federal Docket Management System at www.regulations.gov under Docket number MARAD-2020-0127.

NEW OFFSHORE FACILITIES

- Two new catenary anchor leg mooring (CALM) buoys, one located in West Cameron Area lease block 508 (WC 508) and one located in East Cameron Area lease block 263 (EC 263), including two 24-inch-diameter floating hoses for loading vessels.
- Two new pipeline end manifolds (PLEMs), including two 24-inch-diameter undersea flexible hoses to connect the PLEMs with the CALM buoys.
- Two crude oil loading pipelines, one approximately 0.9 mile long and one approximately 1.2 miles long, to connect the existing platform in West Cameron Area lease block 509 (WC 509 Platform Complex) with the PLEMs.
- A new mainline valve (MLV) at the platform in West Cameron Area lease block 148 (WC 148 Platform).
- Facilities on the WC 509 Platform Complex, including two new 36-inch risers, a new control room, three new pig barrels, a meter station for crude oil, a surge tank and valves, living quarters, heliport, and ancillary equipment to support the operation of the offshore facilities.

EXISTING OFFSHORE FACILITIES TO BE CONVERTED

- The 36-inch-diameter natural gas mainline, the Stingray Pipeline, from Station 501 to the WC 509 Platform Complex.
- The WC 148 Platform, including a new MLV.
- The WC 509 Platform Complex, which would be converted from natural gas service to a dual-purpose natural gas transmission and crude oil export facility.

NEW ONSHORE FACILITIES

- A new, approximately 37.0-mile-long, 42-inch-diameter crude oil pipeline to connect the existing Nederland Terminal in Jefferson County, Texas, to the existing 36-inch-diameter Stingray Pipeline at Station 501 in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.
- A new pump station, the BMOP Pump Station, in Jefferson County, Texas, adjacent to the existing Nederland Terminal, including a pipeline header, MLV, metering and pump equipment, electrical substation, and permanent access road.
- Six new MLVs along the new 37.0-mile-long 42-inch-diameter pipeline.

EXISTING ONSHORE FACILITIES TO BE CONVERTED

- Station 501 in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, from which the existing natural gas equipment would be removed and expanded to include new pig launchers/receivers and a new MLV.
- Station 701 in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, from which the existing natural gas equipment would be removed with the exception of two 10,000-barrel storage tanks, would be expanded to include office space, a natural gas interconnect, surge tanks and valves, a new MLV, and 1,500 feet of new pipe.



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