Freeport LNG’s Noble Gas Project

Overview
Freeport LNG is a proud member of the greater Brazosport industrial community and has safely operated its assets on Quintana Island and near Oyster Creek since 2008. The first cargo of LNG was exported from Quintana Island in September 2019. With all three Trains now in commercial operation, Freeport LNG’s total production capacity is over fifteen million tons per year making Freeport LNG the 7th largest producer of LNG globally. In addition to our previously announced and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) authorized Train 4 expansion, we continue to seek opportunities to grow our business and make positive contributions to our communities. One such growth project involves the recovery of helium (one of the noble gases) from a residual gas stream at our Oyster Creek Pretreatment Facility. This Noble Gas Project will be the first of its kind in the United States, and will help address a growing shortage of helium.

Noble Gas Project Description
Freeport LNG is proposing to construct, own, and operate a helium extraction and purification plant co-located at the existing Pretreatment Facility. The proposed project will extract helium from the compressed boil-off gas (BOG) pipeline. The project will require tie-ins to the existing BOG pipeline, firewater system, nitrogen header, and electric supply at the Pretreatment Facility. The project is not required for the liquefaction of natural gas but is a separate product stream for commercial purposes. Pending regulatory approvals, operations are anticipated to start in October 2021.

Benefits
Helium is a finite resource characterized by the United States Department of the Interior as a critical mineral vital to the nation’s security and economic prosperity. Extraction of helium associated with the production and storage of LNG is one of only three ways that helium can be captured. The project will tie into Freeport LNG’s existing BOG line to allow for helium extraction without disruption to LNG operations.

The majority of domestic helium is used in the cooling of magnets in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines for medical diagnostics, in space exploration and in defense systems. The project promotes economic efficiency by capturing a finite resource that would otherwise be lost and allow it to be used for a more beneficial purpose.

Artist rendition of proposed facilities for Freeport LNG’s Noble Gas Project located at the Pretreatment Facility.

Aerial view of proposed site for Freeport LNG’s Noble Gas Project.
Regulatory Process
Like the existing Freeport LNG facilities, the Noble Gas Project will require approval from FERC for the proposed tie-ins to the existing BOG pipeline, nitrogen header, and firewater supply at the Pretreatment Facility. The helium plant and electrical supply tie-in are not directly related to the liquefaction or export of natural gas and will be outside of FERC’s jurisdiction. Other federal, state, and local regulatory agencies will have authorization over these project components.

Safety
Helium is a non-toxic and non-combustible gas that is not harmful to humans or the environment. The safety of its employees and the communities in which it operates is always Freeport LNG’s highest priority. Freeport LNG is committed to the safe construction and operation of all its facilities. All project facilities will be designed, installed, tested, operated, and maintained in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and standards that are intended to prevent facility accidents and failures, ensure public safety, and protect the environment. Operating procedures prepared for the Liquefaction Project will be updated as necessary to include the Noble Gas Project facilities after final design is complete, and incorporated into existing facility procedures where applicable. Training will be provided to operations staff to ensure that facility personnel are familiar with and adhere to safe operating procedures of the new facilities.

Commitment to the Community
Freeport LNG and its employees have built a strong tradition of working with and contributing to a number of local civic and community-focused organizations through volunteer efforts and charitable contributions. Freeport LNG’s commitment to environmental stewardship began when the company first started development of its import terminal in 2002. This commitment has become a hallmark of Freeport LNG’s operations and will be a focus of planning and decision-making during all phases of the Noble Gas Project. Freeport LNG is also committed to proactive and meaningful dialogue with landowners, communities and other stakeholders to inform them about the Project. Freeport LNG has established a website at www.FreeportLNG.com where stakeholders can read about the project and submit comments or questions.

Project Contact Information
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Close-up aerial view of proposed site as represented in shaded blue for Freeport LNG’s Noble Gas Project.