



# Playa del Mar Newsletter Special Report



Volume 111 Issue 2

April 2008

## LIQUID NATURAL GAS PORT PROPOSED OFF OUR BEACH



This May will be the last opportunity for residents of the Galt Mile to express their opinions publicly about a proposed liquid natural gas (LNG) port off our coast, before final approval by Gov. Crist. The port, which will be visible by naked eye from the PDM beach, and look something like a ship on the horizon, would be build by Suez Energy North America, under its subsidiary named Calypso.

As soon as the date for the public hearing is announced, PDM residents will be notified by email and notices on the bulletin boards.

Florida has gone into negotiations with Suez to build a port and pipeline system off of the Galt Ocean Mile with the objective of getting the additional supply of natural gas from outside the USA. The final step before construction can begin is approval by Florida's governor.

### BACKGROUND

The original plan of the Suez Company was to unload its ships containing LNG in a port in the Bahamas so it could flow through a pipeline from the Bahamas to Florida. The Suez Company failed to get approval from the government of the Bahamas for this plan.



LNG is frozen natural gas, maintained at an extremely cold temperature. In liquid state, the gas is not flammable. Only in a gas state are the fumes flammable. It is

thawed on the vessel at the time of discharge into a pipeline. If the substance is melted too quickly, such as caused by an accident or sabotage, a violent and devastating explosion can occur. One vessel transporting liquid natural gas has the equivalent energy and explosive power of some 20 to 55 A-bombs.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM



There are two basic subsystems making up this LNG deep water port delivery system. First, is the deep water port itself, and the second is the pipeline running from the port to Port Everglades.

The deepwater port will consist of two buoys, one located 8 miles off our beach and the other 10 miles. Vessels with LNG will anchor there and the gas will be heated onboard the vessel and discharged into the connecting pipeline. This vessel at the buoy will be visible from our beach near the horizon. A second buoy will house a permanent ship which will serve as a moor providing additional capacity for ships to discharge gas. It will house five gas storage tanks.

The pipeline, which will carry gas from the two buoys to Port Everglades, will run in an almost straight line from 8 miles directly east of the PDM. It will rest on the ocean floor until it reaches the coral reef, where it will run several hundred feet below the coral reef in a tunnel. It will surface in Port Everglades, and connect into the Florida gas pipeline system.



Bob Boffa, our board president, said at the Galt Community Association meeting that there would be enough gas off our beach to cause an explosion equivalent to 15 to 25 times the destructive force of an atomic bomb. The Suez company representative said that this would be possible if all of the gas exploded at once. (Ed note- Port Everglades' procedures concerning this fuel are, of course, under USA safety regulations and control. We do not know what controls apply to a LNG deep water port owned by a foreign company and beyond USA jurisdiction).

Other attendees expressed their concern over the dangers of this deep water port being so close to the Galt Ocean Mile. Attendees raised concerns about a gas cloud being blown toward the shore due to an accident. Another attendee asked for the reason this

deep sea port had to be built next to such a densely populated area, and if a location further out at sea or south of Miami going towards the Keys (where there is no population by the beach) were considered. The representative said that in all three bids of companies competing for this project, only an area from Palm Beach to Ft Lauderdale was considered. Both locations have a sea floor capable of supporting vessels and pipelines. Further, each area had easy access to Florida's gas pipeline.

Security risk was also discussed. The Suez representative said that a patrol boat owned by Suez would monitor the area and contact the Coast Guard if there is a problem.

### MORE DETAIL ON THE INTERNET

For those readers who want greater detail on the LNG systems, go to the Galt Mile website <http://www.galtmile.com/ftlaud.html#calypso> on the internet. At the website you will read about the first LNG onshore facility which leveled one square mile of Cleveland Ohio in 1944, killing 181 people, and leaving 680 homeless. You can also read about various studies regarding LNG vessels and deep water ports, and about a California impact study in 1977 equating one LNG vessel with the fire power of 55 Atomic bombs. And, you can read about a 2001 study regarding high levels of energy concentrations (as an LNG deep water port facility) considered to be a security risk and recommending that it should be avoided.



The study found that if such a facility is required, then tight security must be in place. This study was the source of regulation

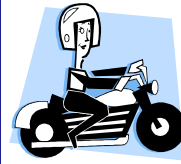


and guidelines coming from our 9/11 experience. But, this is a requirement for facilities within USA jurisdiction.

### CRIME ON THE GALT

Major Hanstein of the Ft Lauderdale police department gave a crime status report for our area. He said that crime is down 6% from last year on the Galt Ocean Mile, and emphasized that crime in our area has always been extremely low compared to other parts of the city.

Some members at the association meeting attributed the reduction in crime to the start of an off-duty beach/street police patrol hired by the Galt Mile Association one year ago – which is exactly when the crime rate began to fall on the Galt. The off duty Ft Lauderdale police patrol the Galt beach (using an ATV) and the Galt Ocean Mile street, in uniform. Those off duty police are considered to be on duty as soon as any issue arises, and they have the full backing of the Ft Lauderdale and Broward County sheriff.



The cost per year for off duty police to patrol our beach and street, and provide backup to building security guards is \$20 per year per unit. Every condo on Galt Ocean Drive participates in this program **except for the Playa Del Mar**. Therefore, our building does not qualify for any of these extra services. **The security in participating buildings** are able to get immediate response from the patrol by calling them directly for assistance with what might be perceived as minor problems: vagrants hanging around the beach entrance, suspicious person on the property, or a noise complaint. The response time from the special patrol could be 1-2 minutes; it could be longer from the regular police department depending on other calls and emergencies.

