

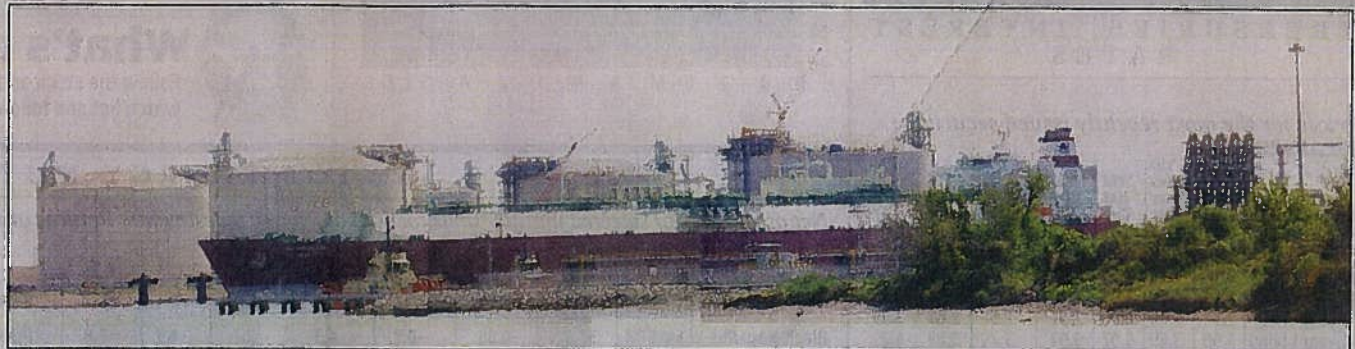
# BUSINESS

COMING SATURDAY

■ Houston-based FuelQuest helps companies save money by the gallon. CEO Matt Tormollen talks with the Chronicle about how.

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## SHIPPING



GUISEPPE BARRANCO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION : BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

# LNG DELIVERY IS A MILESTONE



**T**HE Golden Pass Terminal in Sabine Pass received its first LNG shipment Thursday, which will be used to start the facility. Stored at around 260 degrees below zero, the newly shipped LNG will lower the temperature of the terminal. While the first load of LNG is not for consumers, terminal administrators expect the terminal to be operating fully by November. Each future incoming vessel will carry enough fuel to power 70,000 American homes for a year. **STORY**

# Sabine Pass terminal gets its first shipment of LNG

By SARAH MOORE

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

**SABINE PASS** — Thursday's shipment of about 7.5 million cubic feet of liquefied natural gas to the Golden Pass Terminal is a drop in the bucket for the U.S.' natural gas supply — but it was a big splash for the newly opened \$2 billion facility.

The Al Khuwair tanker pulled into the Sabine Pass terminal, steered by tugboats, at 11 a.m. as officials from Jefferson County, Port Arthur, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Sabine Neches Pilots Association and others gathered to congratulate Golden Pass on the event.

After seven years of plan-

ning and construction, including a year's setback because of damage from Hurricane Ike, this initial "commissioning" shipment arrived.

"This is only one of many significant milestones," Golden Pass spokesman Robert Bilnoski said. "But it's a very significant milestone."

The terminal is still months away from being at capacity.

This shipment will be slowly offloaded to cool the tanks to the necessary storage temperature.

Natural gas is converted to liquid form by cooling it to 260 degrees below zero. This condenses it down to 1/600th of its gaseous form.

Then it can be stored at

atmospheric pressure in specially designed ships and storage tanks.

Facility manager Tom Burger described the ships as "like big Thermos bottles with lots of insulation."

The Al Khuwair could be docked at Golden Pass for as long as 15 days as the tanks are slowly cooled. After that, the process will accelerate.

The next shipment should arrive in November, and the terminal should be at capacity within the first three months of 2011, Bilnoski said. By that time, shipments should be arriving every two to three days.

After the tanks are cooled and filled, the pipeline must be filled.

The Golden Pass pipeline stretches 69 miles across four Texas counties and into Beauregard Parish in Louisiana.

For transport through the pipeline, the liquid is warmed and returns to a gas.

Officials say Golden Pass will be able to process and distribute about 2 billion cubic feet per day, providing natural gas to about 10 million U.S. households.

The terminal is owned jointly by Qatar Petroleum, Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips. It represents a \$2 billion investment.

The project employed about 1,000 workers during construction and will provide up to 90 permanent jobs.