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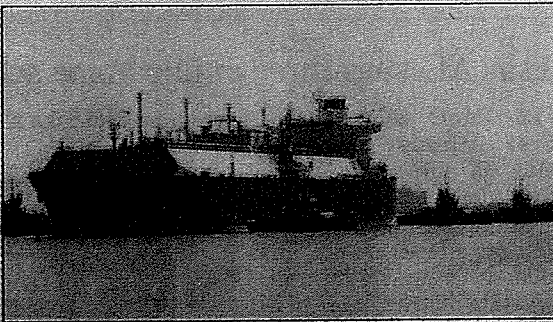
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Golden Pass' ship comes in

First LNG shipment arrives at Sabine Pass facility

By Mary Meaux
The News staff writer

SABINE PASS — The first shipment of liquefied natural gas arrived at the Golden Pass LNG facility after sailing along smooth as glass waters on Thursday.



Mary Meaux/The News

The 1,035-foot Q-Flex ship Al Khuwair made its way to Golden Pass LNG carrying the facility's first commissioned cargo Thursday.

The 1,035-foot Q-Flex ship dubbed Al Khuwair glided into its berth on the Sabine Neches Waterway flanked by four world-class tractor tugs and the U.S. Coast Guard while a law enforcement helicopter whirled overhead.

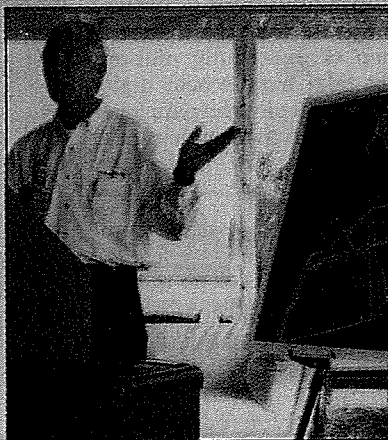
The initial commissioning cargo will now be transferred into tanks at the terminal for storage and ultimate regassification.

The arrival was seven years in the making with permitting granted 2003. The terminal received damage during Hurricane Ike in 2008, delaying the project by about a year.

But blessings come out of bad situations, Robert Bilnoski, Golden Pass LNG public affairs manager, said. Construction was set back a bit which allowed company officials to get to know their neighbors in Sabine Pass.

The facility's tall, cylindrical tanks, visible from afar, are built to withstand hurricane force winds and a berm separates the water from the land, he said.

A slew of city, county, industry officials and others watched the monumental event from the deck of



Mary Meaux/The News

Robert Bilnoski, Golden Pass LNG public affairs manager, provides information about the facility's first commissioned cargo that arrived at the plant in Sabine Pass on Thursday.

an elevated viewing area north of the site. As the ship made a wide turn and was backed into its berth, viewers were called back inside the

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LNG

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tent where several speakers provided information about the shipment and its importance.

Charlie Tweedle, president of Sabine Pilots Association called Thursday a monumental day in the history of the Sabine Neches Waterway.

"I can't imagine what our predecessors would think if

they saw a vessel this size moving up the waterway," Tweedle said of the organization that dates back to 1881. "We have been a partner with Golden Pass since the inception of this project and when others along the Gulf Coast said no, they did not want the facility, we said yes, we'll take care of this."

Golden Pass LNG is located less than a mile from Louisiana's Chenier LNG. Southeast Texas is the only area in the U.S. with two such facilities in close prox-

imity and one of the only U.S. waterways that have both Q-Flex and a Q-Max ships traveling the waters.

The LNG that arrived on Thursday was cooled to a temperature of minus 260 degrees. After going through processing, the product will be stored in tanks at the facility and await future customers.

The Golden Pass Pipeline is a natural gas pipeline that extends about 69 miles northwest of Sabine Pass to Starks, La. with various interconnects in between.

The pipeline can deliver up to 2.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day.

The terminal design capacity is 15.6 million tons per year of LNG, equivalent to 2 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas, enough to meet the daily needs of about 10 million U.S. households.

The Golden Pass LNG Terminal is owned jointly by affiliates of Qatar Petroleum (70 percent), ExxonMobile (917.6 percent) and ConocoPhillips (12.4 percent).

mmeaux@panews.c