

Ocean Cay Facts...

Ocean Cay is a 95-acre man-made island situated on the Great Bahama Bank in the northern Bahamas. It lies just 20 miles south of Bimini, 65 miles east of Miami, Florida and 110 miles north of New Providence. Geologically, Ocean Cay is composed primarily of limestone. However, its northern and southwestern limits are flanked by natural bedrock, which apparently served as the foundation for the island's construction.

Ocean Cay was built in 1970 and at present, has the following amenities:

1. Shipping Channel;
2. Small harbor
3. Ship Turning Basin
4. Mining Facilities

From its initial construction, Ocean Cay has served in an industrial capacity. For more than thirty years it has been a site for aragonite dredging and processing.

Ocean Cay is devoid of any permanent residents and its electrical supply is facilitated through diesel-operated generators.

The Proposal

AES Ocean LNG. Ltd., a company based in the United States, proposes the construction, operation and ownership of a LNG importation and regasification facility on Ocean Cay, The Bahamas.

The Mandate

The proposed LNG facility would be committed to complying with Bahamian, U.S. Federal and the State of Florida's regulations.

The intent of AES is to, "***construct and operate a LNG facility that results in minimal environmental and socioeconomic impact to the environment of The Bahamas.***"

The Proposed Facility...

In addition to the LNG facility, the project proposes the following:

1. A Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) removal plant;
2. A seawater desalination plant;
3. An undersea pipeline supplying potable water to North Bimini;
4. An employee housing and associated facilities on South Bimini;
5. An undersea Natural Gas (NG) supply pipeline.

The Proposed Facility...

The proposed AES facility would receive Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which subsequently would be converted to its gaseous counterpart, Natural Gas (NG), by a regasification process involving heating.

The resultant Natural Gas would then be conveyed, via an undersea pipeline, to South, Florida.

The proposed pipeline would be constructed of steel and extend approximately 64 kilometers from the Ocean Cay site to a connection point at the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary. Here, linkage would be made with the Ocean Express Pipeline, which, in turn, would transport the Natural Gas to South, Florida for distribution.

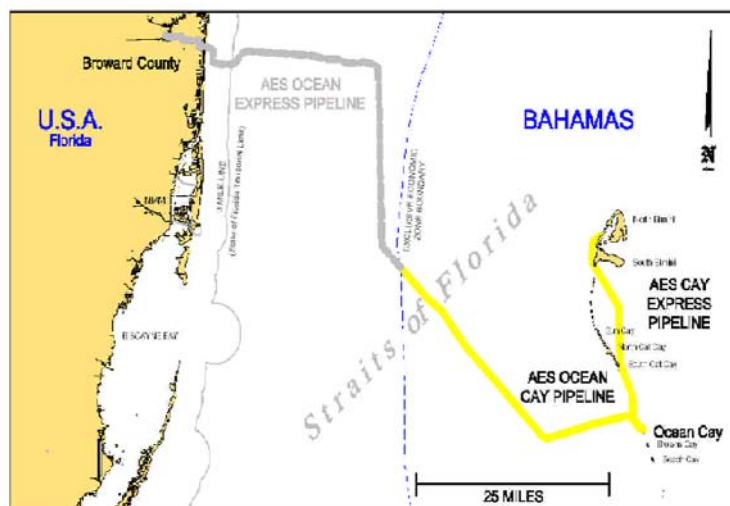


Illustration of pathway of the proposed pipeline

The Proposed Benefits...

The proposed benefits of the LNG facility include the provision of:

1. An opportunity for skill training, construction related and permanent jobs;
2. A supply of fresh potable water generated by reverse osmosis to the island of Bimini;
3. Government tax revenue;
4. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which would provide procedures for operational emergency response, spill prevention, risk reduction, waste management and safe chemical handling.

The Environmental Assessment...

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the LNG facility and associated pipelines was prepared by AES Ocean LNG, Ltd.

The purpose of the assessment was to **evaluate** and **determine potential impacts to the environment**. By establishing potential impacts, the process sought to identify minimization measures.

The assessment process involved comprehensive offshore biological studies, which assisted in devising a viable route for the NG pipeline. The intention was to minimize any impacts to the country's valuable marine resources such as coral reefs.

Included in the EIA were the following studies:

1. Remote sensing, magnetometer, side scan sonar studies for archaeological assessments and evaluations;
2. Marine Biological Studies for species identification and community identification;
3. Parks and Protected Area Study. This was to establish if the proposed route would intercept any of the 10 priority locations established by the Bahamas National Trust;
4. Daytime and Nighttime underwater surveys, to generate a map of the seafloor;
5. Terrestrial Biological Study, to determine the flora and fauna in the designated and surrounding area;
6. LNG hazard analysis and seismic hazard study;
7. Geophysical study of pipeline routes, to determine potential environmental impacts;
8. Navigation and shipping study;
9. Meteorological and Oceanographic Study,

Public Consultation

The Government of The Bahamas contracted ICF Consulting to review the EIA submitted by AES Ocean LNG, Ltd. ICF has completed its review however, the EIA and all associated documents are now available for Public Review. The time frame allotted is from **October 27th - November 21st**.

Review of the documents can be done at the offices of the BEST Commission, Nassau Court, between the hours of 10:00am – 4:00pm daily by appointment.

The public consultation period will culminate with two meetings:

- November 24th – In New Providence, Sir Kendall G. L. Isaacs Gymnasium at 7:30pm
- November 27th – In Bimini, Mt Zion Baptist Church at 7:30pm