Kenai Liquefied Natural Gas Plant and North Cook Inlet Gas Field, Alaska

Facility Facts

LNG Plant Operator: ConocoPhillips 100% ownership
NCI Gas Field/Tyonek Platform Operator: ConocoPhillips 100% ownership

The Kenai LNG Plant is located in Nikiski, on the Kenai Peninsula, approximately 60 air miles from Anchorage and 10 miles from the city of Kenai.

The North Cook Inlet Gas Field was discovered in 1962 and primarily feeds the Kenai LNG Plant. The field is operated from the Tyonek platform in the northern waters of Cook Inlet. Net natural gas production averaged nearly 30 MMCFD in 2012.

LNG Technology

LNG is manufactured from raw natural gas via ConocoPhillips’ proprietary technology that chills the gas to ~259 degrees Fahrenheit (~161 Celsius). This shrinks the gas to less than one-600th of its original volume, which makes long distance shipping feasible. The LNG is stored and transported at atmospheric pressure.

History

The Kenai Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Plant began operating in 1969, and for more than 40 years has been the only LNG export plant of domestic production in the United States.

The Kenai LNG Plant complex includes docking and loading facilities to transport LNG, which is carried to customers by tanker.

In 2011 ConocoPhillips announced that it would be ceasing LNG exports from Kenai and preserving the plant for potential future use. Due to a change in market conditions, the plant resumed making LNG in early 2012 and exported four cargoes to Asian customers over the course of the year.

The export license for the plant expired March 31, 2013 and the plant was in stand-by for more than a year as future plans were assessed. With support from many local stakeholders, and in consideration of a request from the State of Alaska, in December 2013 ConocoPhillips Alaska (COPA) submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Energy to resume exports of LNG from the Kenai Facility. That request was granted in April, 2014. ConocoPhillips received authorization to export a total of 40 BCF of liquefied natural gas over a two-year period from 2014 through 2016.

ConocoPhillips Alaska remains committed to meeting its local gas supply contracts and putting local gas needs first.