

News : Feedgas deliveries to Freeport LNG spike as production restart target nears

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- Freeport scheduled for 54.5 MMcf/d of **feedgas** Dec. 21
- Additional **tankers** set destinations for terminal
- Regulatory approval for restart remains pending

The offline Freeport **LNG** export terminal in **Texas** was on track to receive some 54.5 MMcf/d of **feedgas** on Dec. 21, a day after a spike in deliveries from a pipeline feeding the facility as the operator's year end target for resuming production approaches, S&P Global Commodity Insights data showed.

The reason for the uptick in **feedgas** deliveries to Freeport was not immediately clear -- the facility also takes deliveries of **gas** to generate power -- but flows continuing at a steady rate could be consistent with the developer preparing to restart **LNG** production. Freeport has maintained a target for a partial restart by the end of December.

Two unladen **LNG tankers** – the Prism Agility and the Elisa Larus – set captain's destinations for the Freeport terminal, according to [Platts cFlow](#) ship and commodity tracking software from S&P Global. Two additional **LNG** vessels, the Prism Courage and Prism Diversity have remained anchored for weeks in the **Gulf of Mexico** near the channel that feeds the terminal. The Elisa Larus was showing a captain's estimated arrival at the **Texas** facility on Dec. 27, while the Prism Agility was showing a captain's estimated arrival on Dec. 30, although estimated arrival times and destinations in **LNG** shipping can and sometimes do change.

Flows to the terminal south of Houston were about 22.5 MMcf/d on Dec. 20, with a segment of **Boardwalk Pipeline Partners** ' Gulf South pipeline delivering about 20 MMcf/d, S&P Global data showed. Gulf South confirmed its Dec. 20 deliveries. The data for expected Dec. 21 **feedgas** flows to Freeport were based on nominations for the morning cycle that could later be revised.

The three-train, 15 million mt/year capacity Freeport terminal south of Houston has been offline since an explosion and fire June 8. The developer has maintained its end-of-the-year target even as some market observers questioned whether an extensive information request outlined in a Dec. 12 letter from the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** would lead to further delays. Freeport is required to respond to the list of requirements before it can restart.

"**We** continue to work collaboratively with regulatory agencies, providing the documentation and information requested of **us**," a Freeport spokesperson said Dec. 21. "**We** are working towards the safe, initial restart of our liquefaction facility which remains targeted for around year end, provided **we** obtain the necessary regulatory approvals required."

Freeport would need the signoff by regulators by around Dec. 24 to be able to meet its year-end goal, given the time needed to ramp up after a lengthy outage.

"**We** would like to get the project up and running as soon as possible -- it's very important for **Europe** and others," **FERC** Chairman Richard Glick told reporters Dec. 15. "But it's also very important that **we** make sure that the public is safe, and so **we** are trying to do that."

"In terms of how long it's going to take to respond, I just don't know enough in terms of the internal Freeport process to know how long it is going to take them to put together the information **we** requested," Glick said.

Total **US feedgas** deliveries were about 13.1 Bcf/d on Dec. 21 as terminal operators prepared cargoes to supply strong winter demand, S&P Global data showed. **Feedgas** demand could increase by some 2 Bcf/d when Freeport returns to full production in January, per the developer's target.

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