

Article posted in the Pasadena Citizen  
Newspaper, October 28, 2012

# Air Products dedicates world's largest hydrogen pipeline system

By JIM MOLONY



Workers completing sections of the pipeline.

*Photo courtesy of Air Products.*

Air Products, the leading global hydrogen provider, formally dedicated its Gulf Coast Connection Pipeline connecting the Houston Ship Channel to New Orleans at a ceremony Thursday at the company's Pasadena facility.

In August Air Products began supplying more than 1.2 billion cubic feet of hydrogen per day to refinery and petrochemical customers. Air Products had operated two hydrogen pipeline systems in Texas and Louisiana before joining them with a new 180-mile segment. The 600-mile pipeline span is fed by more than 20 hydrogen production facilities, giving Air Products the world's largest hydrogen plant and pipeline supply network.

"Texas is an important place for us to build this part of the pipeline and grow our business here, it's also a project

that's critically important to sustainability of the refinery and chemical industry located in this state (and) a major source of new jobs and economic success for the whole country," Jeff Byrne, Air Products Vice President and General manager/Tonnage Gases, told the crowd, including several elected officials. "The state of Texas has certainly been good to Air Products but at the same time I'd also like to think that Air Products has been good for the state of Texas. The largest concentration investment we've made as a company is located right here on the Gulf Coast. And we've installed a system that will boost the reliable low cost operation of each of our Texas hydrogen customers."

The access and reliability of the supply is one of its strengths. Like flipping



State Rep. Barbara Legler  
(R-Pasadena) reads a proclamation  
lauding Air Products during  
Thursday's news conference in  
Pasadena.

*Photo by Jim Malony/The Citizen*

a switch, according to Wilbur Mok, Air Products Vice President/North American Tonnage Gases.

“I don’t want to make it sound too simple,” Mok said. “(But) our hydrogen supply is beginning to look like a utility.”

Air Products had set goals for the GCCP project, including:

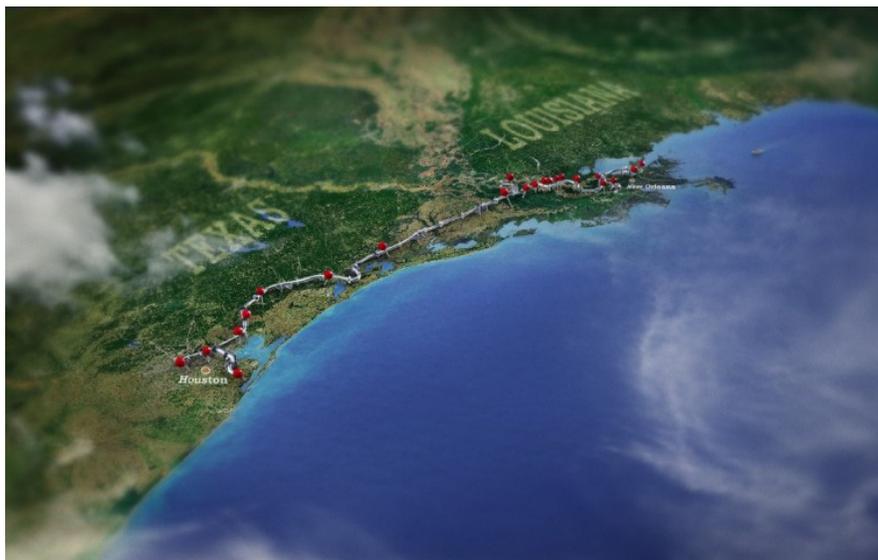
- Designing and developing a feasible route minimizing impacts to local governments, communities, the environment, and strictly adhering to Air Products’ critical safety requirements.
- Securing 1,085 permanent landowner right-of-ways, and over 300 temporary agreements.
- Obtaining numerous environmental permits and hundreds of non-environmental permits.
- Overcoming numerous construction challenges including three U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood protection levees within the Atchafalaya Basin Swamp, and rivers, streams and high way crossings, as well as managing the multiple changes to the design route and securing permit addendums as a result.
- Completing over 100,000 feet of directional drilling.
- Conducting more than 25,000 welds.
- Installing more than 24,000 pipe sections that were each 40 feet in length.



**Air Products Vice President Jeff Byrne addresses the audience at Thursday’s press conference dedicating the world’s largest hydrogen pipeline system.**

*Photo by Jim Malony/The Citizen*

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**Graphic showing the pipeline route and production facilities.**

*Photo courtesy of Air Products.*

Byrne said all those who worked on the project and helped achieve those goals deserved praised for their hard work in making it happen.

“The benefits of the pipeline for customers are already evident,” Byrne said. “The most recent hurricane showed we can deliver hydrogen from Texas to meet customer demand in Louisiana. We’ve also signed new business for increased product supply that allows hydrogen in the pipeline to be directed to multiple customer locations in the both states. The pipeline is truly a competitive advantage for us, and a source of comfort in terms of supply reliability and flexibility for our customers.”

Byrne said Air Products has invested more than half a billion dollars to greatly enhance Texas operations over the last few years.

The company acquired a hydrogen production facility in Corpus Christi a few years ago and recently brought onstream a world class air separation unit in La Porte that produces oxygen, nitrogen, argon and neon. In the next several months Byrne said Air Products will open an unprecedented project to capture carbon emissions to deliver to a pipeline for enhanced oil recovery.

Attendees also had an opportunity to tour Air Products Customer Service facility and to check out a hydrogen powered vehicle.

Among those attending were State Sen. Mike Jackson, State Rep. Wayne Smith, State Rep. Larry Taylor, State Rep. Joe Deshotel, State Rep. Barbara Legler and La Porte Mayor Louis Rigby.



**The world’s largest hydrogen pipeline system stretches from the Ship Channel to New Orleans.**

*Photo courtesy of Air Products.*