

LET'S NOT DO IT THERE

Big Energy has a plan for your coast. They want to build three large Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Port Facilities just a few miles offshore. They say these facilities will be clean, safe and that they will answer our energy woes. But we at the New York City and Central Long Island Chapters of the Surfrider Foundation, together with our partners in a coalition of more than 32 businesses, recreational groups, and six cities, want you to know the truth. We've spent the past three years looking into these plans, examining the public records, and gathering the facts. The only people who will benefit from these facilities are the investors at the three Big Energy companies who have proposed them. Indeed, every New Yorker should oppose these plans because

LNG is:

Bad for our Wallets

Bad for our Climate

Bad for our Waters

Bad for our Security

What is LNG?

LNG stands for Liquefied Natural Gas. It is natural gas that has been compressed and cooled to -260° Fahrenheit for oceanic shipment. Thus, it is *derived* from and *sounds* like natural gas. That's the association that the purveyors of LNG want you to make. They know that natural gas is a relatively clean-burning fuel and that the US has an abundant domestic supply. Hence, some consider it a "bridge" fuel to get us through until truly renewable energy is available. But the energy intensive process of liquefying natural gas to form LNG makes it anything but clean or cheap.

LNG is bad for our Wallets . . .

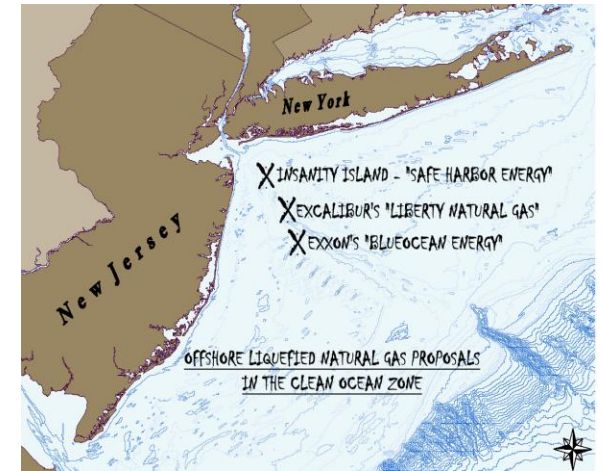


Surfrider members just spray-No!

Far from being a cheap fuel, LNG is nearly twice as expensive as domestic natural gas. In fact, existing US LNG ports are only being used at about 10% of their capacity because the US has such large supplies of cleaner, less expensive *domestic* gas. Both energy and government sources agree that the US's large reserves will easily outpace domestic demand and last for at least 60 years! Thus, these companies are seeking to keep us dependent

upon foreign energy we don't need. The US could continue to develop domestic natural gas supplies but these companies would rather earn big profits by getting us to compete with the energy-starved Asian markets that are willing to pay a premium for the *dirty liquefied* version. Of course, this will mean that US consumers will pay more for their energy. But these companies don't care how much these terminals cost us! The increased cost of energy is only one of the ways that this will hit us in the wallet. These terminals will require major new federal, state and local spending for security and emergency response services. But the energy companies aren't talking about that either!

LNG is bad for our Climate . . .



Big Energy's three LNG schemes for the NY-NJ coast (Courtesy of Clean Ocean Action)

Natural gas is a fossil fuel that emits slightly less carbon dioxide or CO_2 (e.g., greenhouse gas) than petroleum. But the process of converting it to liquid for transport means that LNG has a carbon footprint that is nearly equivalent to coal! Everyone understands that this is bad for the planet but Big Energy doesn't care. They just want to make a buck.

LNG is bad for our Waters. . .



“Safe Harbor Energy,” 83-acre proposed artificial island, 13-miles S. of Long Beach, NY

These facilities represent a major privatization and industrialization of public waters. If Big Energy’s plans are approved, these waters would be covered by large “security buffers” that would deny their use to the boaters, divers, and fishermen who have enjoyed these areas for generations. More troubling still, the projects would bring heavy pollution to our coast. Marine life will be destroyed by the construction of the pipelines and terminals. The facilities would require numerous deep-water anchor chains that according to an environmental impact statement for a similar project in Massachusetts result in “long-term reduction to benthic [bottom]” habitat across an area of up to 38-acres per chain. These plans would also require the uptake of billions of gallons of sea water per year for use in gasification, ballasting, and ships waste. That water would be returned to the ocean at a different temperature and filled with a habitat-killing brew of chlorine and other biocides. One plan—the plan that is furthest along in the approval process—even calls

for the creation of an 83-acre artificial island to be built in the open ocean, 13 miles off the coast of Long Beach on the site of the Cholera Bank. This storied fishing ground forms the northern edge of the only naturally occurring offshore reef on the NY/NJ coast and is a pivotal part of the migratory ecosystem for dozens of endangered fish and mammals, all subject to destruction if these plans are approved.

LNG is Bad for Our Security . . .



Threat Assessment Map from the LNG Plan that California Vetoed. Too dangerous for them, so how can it be safe for New York?

These facilities are extremely dangerous. That’s one reason why the California Land Commission vetoed a similar LNG development last year and both New York and Connecticut vetoed an LNG facility proposed in Long Island Sound. But now the projects that were deemed too dangerous for California and Long Island Sound are being dumped off the South Shore of Long Island. Does that make sense?

LNG is odorless, tasteless, and invisible to the naked eye. If it spills (think *Exxon Valdes* with LNG) it immediately begins warming up and reverting to a gaseous state. Once it re-gasifies it is extremely prone to explosive ignition from such otherwise innocuous sources as cigarettes, boat engines, even cell phones. *The result, as one LNG chief executive put it, is a fire that “is like a nuclear meltdown.”* And even if it doesn’t ignite, once it reaches 17% concentration in the air, this undetectable gas will asphyxiate anyone caught in its path. These facts are all the more disturbing given that the facilities are being sited in an area that is subject to the full, offshore force of Atlantic hurricanes and nor’easters, to say nothing of the inviting targets they would provide for terrorist groups interested in repeating the horrors of “9/11.”

Stop LNG Madness! You Can Make a Difference!

Demand an LNG veto from Governor Paterson! And sign up for action with:

<http://www.surfrider.org/nyc/>

<http://www.surfridercli.org/>

Or contact our allies at Clean Ocean Action:

<http://www.cleanoceanaction.org/>



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To Protect the World’s Oceans, Waves
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