

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2024

Contacts:

Zulene Mayfield, Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living, zmmills@aol.com
302.397.1804

Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org
215.692.2329

PA Rep. Joseph Hohenstein, jhohenstein@pahouse.net,

Ending the LNG Threat
Biden Administration's Moratorium on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
Exports Promises Delaware River Protection

Chester, PA hails permitting halt to protect community health and the environment and to address surging climate impacts

Chester, Pennsylvania - Community activists and Pennsylvania State Representatives gathered at City Hall in Chester today to welcome the moratorium on federal permitting of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export projects that was announced last week by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The White House announced that DOE authorization of new LNG export projects are put on hold while the climate and community impacts of these projects are assessed by the agency. The pause applies to all new and pending applications for LNG exports to ["non-Free Trade" countries](#).

On [January 26th, President Joe Biden announced](#) a pause on approval of new LNG exports to allow for consideration of critical community, economic and climate impacts. The President's announcement read in part: "During this period, we will take a hard look at the impacts of LNG exports on energy costs, America's energy security, and our environment. This pause on new LNG approvals sees the climate crisis for what it is: the existential threat of our time."

[Penn America Energy proposed developing](#) an LNG export facility in Chester, PA. Prior to the recent change in leadership from republican control to democratic, the Pennsylvania legislature organized the PA Legislative Task Force. The Task Force was billed as a means to push for turning the Delaware River Ports into an "LNG Export Hub". The Task Force issued a [report](#) biased towards building an LNG export project in Chester or other southeastern PA locations, despite the weight of evidence of the negative public health, environmental, economic and climate impacts for the region and

beyond. The President's announcement will prevent this facility from getting federal approvals from the Department of Energy allowing for the sought after exports. The President's announcement was welcomed by community leaders from Chester Pennsylvania, and elsewhere in the region, threatened by LNG exports.

Speakers at the Press Conference at City Hall in Chester included:
Zulene Mayfield, [Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living \(CRCQL\)](#)

Stefan Roots, Mayor, City of Chester

State Representative Carol Kazeem, PA HD 159 <https://www.pahouse.com/Kazeem/>

State Representative Joseph Hohenstein, PA HD 177
<https://www.pahouse.com/Hohenstein>

Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, [Proposed LNG Chester](#) and [Proposed LNG Gibbstown](#)

"I am encouraged to see that our federal government is examining the climate impact of LNG. The reality is that an energy transition away from fossil fuels is happening. It is happening both because it is better for our planet and better for our economy. The sooner the US joins in the markets for sustainable energy, the better off we, and our children and future generations will be," said PA Representative Joseph Hohenstein, PA HD 177 <https://www.pahouse.com/Hohenstein>.

"The LNG industry and their supporters have targeted the Delaware River Watershed for their dirty LNG energy projects but the Biden Administration's temporary halt to approval of LNG exports has come at a pivotal moment that could have far-reaching effects. The devastating health, environmental, and climate consequences of expanding LNG exports have been ignored by special interests pushing for the Chester and Gibbstown LNG projects. A much needed in depth assessment process by the federal government of the climate and community impacts should at long last establish how to fairly and factually assess the enormous impacts of these fossil fuel expansion projects", **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

Impacts to LNG Proposals for Delaware River Ports

The LNG export approval pause is expected to immediately affect the proposed Penn America LNG Export Terminal the company has planned for Chester, PA on the Delaware River. Without DOE authorization, they cannot export to non-Free Trade Agreement nations; the company had not yet received any federal approvals.

Also affected by the President's announcement, but to somewhat of a lesser degree, is the proposed Gibbstown Logistic Center export facility. [New Fortress Energy](#), the entity advancing the Gibbstown facility, is continuing its efforts to construct an LNG export terminal in Gibbstown on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River. While this project is not yet constructed but already partially approved, having received federal approval for exports to Free Trade countries, approval for export to ["non-Free Trade" countries](#), as [identified by the federal government](#), is now paused.

###