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Delaware Riverkeeper Network Impugns PA LNG Task Force Report Biased Report Undermines Communities and Ignores Plain Facts

Delaware River Watershed – Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) dismissed the Report issued today by the Pennsylvania Legislative Philadelphia LNG Export Task Force as inaccurate, misleading, and an affront to Delaware River communities. The [Report](#) was released today after it was approved at a Task Force public meeting held Wednesday in Harrisburg, livestreamed on YouTube. [Representative Joe Hohenstein](#) and Task Force member was the lone “no” vote on the Report.

DRN condemned the omission of the testimony of impacted community members who testified at the LNG Task Force Hearings as insulting and a grave mistake. The report contains no mentions of or quotes from Pennsylvania [Representative Carol Kazeem](#), who represents the District where the LNG terminal would most likely be located, community representative Zulene Mayfield of the [Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living \(CRCQL\)](#), or Chester City Councilman Stefan Roots. All three were invited speakers from Chester who presented testimony before the Task Force at their public hearings this year.

Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director of Delaware Riverkeeper Network said, “It’s clear that the Task Force’s hidden agenda was to produce a report with a predetermined biased conclusion and to silence community voices and any independent testimony. This attempt to suppress began with the first Hearing in April and it’s carried through to the report’s release – it’s insulting to the people who testified and to the public whom they were representing.” **Carluccio continued**, “The Task Force report turns out to be a biased dogma, written to present a predisposed point of view in favor of turning the Delaware River Ports into an LNG export hub. It makes a sham of legislative investigation, is a waste of taxpayer money, and cheats the public of a fair and open analysis of the grave adverse community impacts and environmental damage involved should an LNG terminal be located in Chester or anywhere in the Delaware River Watershed.”

DRN also criticized the lack of any information on the environmental impacts that would result from the placement and operation of an LNG Export Terminal in the Delaware River Port region or

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in Chester, specifically. The report refers to testimony provided in 2022 at a public hearing of the PA Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee on HB2458 by Penn LNG, the company proposing to build an LNG Export Facility and Terminal in Chester, PA, verifying that the proposed Chester facility is the likely location for the Task Force's deliberately vague references to a location for their proposed LNG terminal. Yet the Task Force Report neglects to address the public health and environmental impacts of such a terminal on residents of Chester or the larger southeastern PA communities that would be impacted or the substantial environmental impacts of an LNG facility and its required infrastructure on the Delaware River and Bay and on the ecological and natural resources of the southeastern PA region and its watershed.

DRN also faulted the Task Force Report for its poorly informed and unconvincing rationalization about why exporting LNG from the Delaware River Watershed would help war-torn European allies to get out from under the yoke of the burden of foreign energy dominance. There is no evidence that an LNG facility located in the Delaware River ports is needed, especially considering its "Johnny come lately" timing, that there is glut of LNG and other sources of natural gas globally, there is so much LNG already in development from other locations, and there is an active and well-planned movement away from imported fossil fuels and towards self-sustained renewable zero-carbon energy in Europe.

DRN points out that another obvious gaffe was the Report's reliance on the old "natural gas is a transition fuel" rationalization for continuing to use dirty fracked gas regardless of the climate impacts. DRN considers the path to truly clean energy is not through expanding fracking and shale gas extraction but through the development of energy sources that do not emit greenhouse gases and that will measurably and dramatically help our nation and the world achieve the 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 that scientists explain is urgently required and the need for a 100% zero-carbon renewable energy system by 2050 at the latest to address the climate crisis and protect communities already suffering the ravages of climate change and global warming.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network has heightened concerns that an LNG Export Terminal and the proposed MACH2 Hydrogen Hub are both being proposed for the same spaces, on top of the same already overburdened communities, targeting the Delaware River. "How could such a highly intrusive, dangerous, and polluting network of industrial facilities be thrown in close proximity to each other, where dense populations of people live and work, inhabited by endangered, threatened, and valuable river species and irreplaceable ecosystems, both supposedly utilizing the current network of pipeline and other infrastructure they mention, without severe safety and public health hazards and environmental devastation to the region," **added Carluccio.**



Inside the LNG Taskforce Hearing, before the hearing began community members and activists alike held up their signs to show they do not support an LNG Terminal. Taken August 22, 2023.



Left to Right: Pennsylvania Representative Joe Hohenstein of the 177th District, Tracy Carluccio – Deputy Director at DRN, Zulene Mayfield – Founder of Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL). Taken August 22, 2023.

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