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Health Professionals, Environmental Groups, Mark Ruffalo Overwhelmingly Oppose Gibbstown LNG Project, Call on Governors to Reject Facility

Ahead of a potential vote next week, opposition is mounting to a dangerous, first-of-its-kind fracked gas export facility in the Delaware River Basin

Ahead of a potential vote next week, overwhelming opposition to a proposed fracked gas export facility in the Delaware River Basin is mounting. In two letters, more than [50 health professionals and organizations](#) and more than [130 environmental experts](#), as well as actor-activist Mark Ruffalo, demand the governors of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware take action to stop a proposed fracked gas export terminal in the Delaware River Basin that threatens public health and safety and the environment.

The Delaware River Basin Commission could decide the fate of this dangerous facility in Gibbstown, N.J. as soon as next week at the meeting on September 10th. If it's approved, liquid fracked gas, a highly explosive and dangerous material, would be transported through communities and along the river in freight railcars, trucks and large shipping vessels, threatening the river and the safety of thousands.

The Delaware River Basin Commission's process thus far has been shrouded in secrecy and environmental organizations have raised concerns that risks to water quality and public safety have not been addressed nor has there been adequate notice for the public, electeds or experts to review and comment on the project. Currently, the project would require up to 1,000 truck trips per day, 365 days a year.

Additionally, there would also be rail transport of the fracked gas. This spring, the Trump administration fast-tracked fracked gas to be transported by train overriding critical federal safeguards. President Trump issued an executive order on April 10, 2019 directing the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to initiate rulemaking to allow liquefied natural gas transport by rail causing alarm.

"Risking an enormous blast or super-heated firestorm in the Delaware River Basin in order to serve the needs of the fossil fuel industry does not make sense," **said Dr. Kathleen Nolan, one of the co-founders of Concerned Health Professionals of New York.** "The river and its surrounding lands already serve the people of four states, providing amazing recreational opportunities and clean, fresh drinking water for millions of people," she continued. "The review of this proposal has not been adequate, and health professionals, scientists, and first responders should be consulted about their concerns for the health and safety of the basin, including adverse impacts from this project related to important climate goals."

Mark Ruffalo, actor, environmental advocate and Board member of Catskill Mountainkeeper said,

"This is an outrageous Trump-backed plan to export fracked gas overseas. The Governors of NJ, NY, PA and DE need to stop this plan in its tracks and put the health and lives of the public and the water of the Delaware River before the profits of the fracking industry."

Dr. Arati Kreibich of Glen Rock, New Jersey, said, "The proposed project is risky, untested, and unnecessary. Liquefied natural gas is dangerous in any setting, but especially so when transported by trucks and trains through our communities. Governor Murphy and the governors of DE, PA, and NY should protect public health and our environment and deny this project."

"The proposed Gibbstown LNG Export Terminal is fraught with danger at every step of its supply chain; from the fracking and liquefaction in northcentral Pennsylvania, to the dangerous transport of flammable and potentially explosive liquid methane through 200 miles of communities, to its handling and loading into ships at the Gibbstown terminal, to the "floating bomb" ships that will take it overseas, to its end use as a dirty fossil fuel. The proposed terminal will cause unmitigatable harm to our environment, to habitats and species, and to the water quality of the Delaware River, which is the water supply for 17 million people. We call on the Delaware River Basin Commission to vote to protect the watershed and its communities by denying approval for this reckless and damaging project", **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.**

The letter from the health professionals is available here:

<http://concernedhealthny.org/2020/09/letter-to-drbc-regarding-gibbstown-nj-export-facility/>

The letter from environmental organizations is available here:

[https://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Group%20sign-on%20letter%20to%20DRBC%20to%20Vote%20NO%20\(2020-09-01\).pdf](https://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Group%20sign-on%20letter%20to%20DRBC%20to%20Vote%20NO%20(2020-09-01).pdf)

The health experts warn in their letter that, "Any incident either on land or with shipping vessels in the Delaware River could be catastrophic, affecting the environment and the quality of water on which more than 15 million people rely. Introducing an intensive industrial process, based on largely untested and unstudied systems, poses a significant risk."

The letter from environmental organizations states, "This project will have substantial negative impacts on the Delaware River, its water quality, its habitats, and the species that live in and depend on the River, Estuary and Bay. It will also threaten the health and safety of communities in the region, including adjacent Gibbstown and Greenwich Township, as well as the Pennsylvania communities of Tinicum Township and the environmental justice communities of Chester, which have had no say in project permitting... We respectfully request you reject Hearing Officer Kelly's recommendation and vote NO on the approval of Dock 2."

Background:

Plans to build a massive new fracked gas project that will threaten the climate, environment, and public health are being decided on by the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Governors of New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania. New Fortress Energy and Delaware River Partners want to expand the deepwater port terminal in Gibbstown, Gloucester County, NJ across from Chester, PA to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) overseas. Fracked gas from Pennsylvania would be sent to a New Fortress processing plant being built in Wyalusing, Bradford County, PA to be liquefied. Then tank trucks and/or trains would carry this hazardous LNG over 200 miles through populated areas to Gibbstown daily. Huge shipping vessels would transport it down the river, passing Delaware and NJ and through the Bay to ports proposed by New Fortress overseas.

The project would be a disaster for Delaware River communities. Every day, up to 1,650 truck trips and/or 100 rail cars would come into Gibbstown, worsening air pollution in a region that doesn't meet EPA standards for ozone. LNG will be loaded onto ships continuously, 24/7, 365 days per year, putting communities at risk from explosion. And water quality, endangered species, such as Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, and rare, vulnerable habitats for many animals and plants are threatened by the terminal and dredging.

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