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126 Organizations Say “NO” to Proposed Gibbstown Fracked LNG Terminal in Letter to DRBC

Petition drive launched to stop LNG Export on Delaware River

West Trenton, NJ – 126 diverse organizations representing hundreds of thousands of members from geographically broad regions, including all four Watershed states, submitted a letter today to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) opposing the proposed Gibbstown LNG export terminal. The groups urged the DRBC to vote not to approve the proposed expansion of the Gibbstown Logistics Center to allow a second deepwater dock for the export of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) by ship overseas by New Fortress Energy and their subsidiary Delaware River Partners. The letter can be seen here: <https://bit.ly/2V1E5Mr>

The organizations also announced the launch of a Petition addressed to the DRBC that will be circulated throughout the summer for individuals to sign. The petition can be seen here: <https://bit.ly/2UIAOkY>

The letter states: “We submit that the initial decision made by DRBC to approve the project did not adhere to the agency’s own regulations and mandated responsibilities. The Dock 2 expansion is substantially lacking in critical information about the export of LNG and related operations at the site; the assessment of risks associated with perpetual, round-the -clock LNG and natural gas liquids (NGLs) handling and direct transloading onto ships at this site; and how prevention of toxic contamination will be accomplished.”

The DRBC Commissioners will be considering whether to allow the project to move ahead when they reconsider their prior approval in June 2019. Delaware Riverkeeper Network asked for a Hearing to reconsider the approval, which led to an adjudicatory hearing that lasted 8 days in May. The recommendation that comes out of those proceedings will be voted on by the DRBC Commissioners in the coming weeks/months. There has been huge public controversy regarding the export terminal and the organizations are advocating that the project be stopped.

“The DRBC has previously tried to rush through the review of a massive new LNG facility upon the banks of the Delaware River. But the applicant, Delaware River Partners, clearly shows that this will be an environmental disaster for the river and surrounding communities. An export LNG facility would be a carbon bomb on the Delaware, create innumerable safety hazards and dig our climate change hole deeper. It’s time for DRBC to take a second look at this project and look at its full life-cycle and watershed impacts. DRBC should permanently shelve this project,” **said Doug O’Malley, director of Environment New Jersey.**

“Approval of the Gibbstown project means that Delawareans will be exposed to the dangers of explosions from liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other volatile hydrocarbons. Once the issues are fully laid out, we believe that our governor will understand that this project endangers our people, our infrastructure and our existing industries and should be rejected,” **said Coralie Pryde, League of Women Voters of Delaware.**

“We are calling on the Delaware River Basin Commission to do their job to protect the Delaware River from an LNG terminal. They must scrutinize this dangerous and unnecessary project that will have devastating impacts to the environment and public safety. It will only cause catastrophic damage to the Delaware River and surrounding area, impact Atlantic Sturgeon, prompt more fracking, more use of GHG’s, more pollution, and climate change impacts. There will be close to 2,000 trucks that would transport explosive LNG to the site each day through our neighborhoods and communities,” **said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.** “People of the region and groups do not want this project and are showing their opposition by signing this letter and our petition to stop it. DRBC, don’t ruin the Basin, do your job and deny this project!”

“It would not make sense for Governor Cuomo to vote for LNG export as a member of the Delaware River Basin Commission. The commissioners should be making their decisions on sound science. Approving this project would not be sound science. Our governor signed New York State’s fracking ban into law this spring because of the dangerous impacts to our communities and our environment from drilling and fracking. Last year Governor Cuomo signed into law the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. There is no climate leadership in allowing New Fortress Energy to trash our climate by exporting fracked gas. There is no community protection in allowing bomb trucks and trains to go through our towns and increase fracking for overseas markets. It is time for all of the commissioners to vote no on this docket,” **said Wes Gillingham Associate Director, Catskill Mountainkeeper.**

“This export terminal is one piece of a catastrophic plan to turn our region into a natural gas hub, locking us into decades of fracking and greenhouse gas pollution. DRBC has taken a dangerously narrow-minded view and considered only the most localized impacts of construction. DRBC must stop dodging the climate change consequences of this project and reject the Gibbstown export terminal,” **said Jocelyn Sawyer, South Jersey Organizer, Food & Water Action.**

"The negative impacts of climate change are already here and will only get worse. It will cause people to suffer, wreak economic and environmental destruction, and it will again disproportionately negatively impact communities of color. The Delaware River Basin is a metaphorical and literal gatekeeper between massive reserves of carbon that need to stay in the ground, and a world market eager to exploit these reserves and the Basin itself. Do what scientific consensus agrees must be done and shut down this reckless LNG export proposal now," **said Eric Benson, Campaign Director, Clean Water Action NJ.**

“DRBC has formed a Climate Change Advisory Committee, expressing concern about the effects of increasing global warming from greenhouse gas releases. The LNG terminal, the associated compression facility, transport leakage, eventual use of the gas and the exponential decline rate accelerated drilling treadmill to supply the facility all release volumes of climate impacting greenhouse gasses. How can the DRBC be ‘concerned’ and still approve the Gibbstown LNG export terminal?” **said B. Arrindell, Director, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability.**

“We call on the DRBC Commissioners to look comprehensively at this project and the damage and risks it will bring to New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Delaware River as well as the cradle to grave climate effects of the most powerful of greenhouse gases, methane, which would be the terminal’s primary cargo. This is the DRBC’s responsibility and we count on them to protect us and the Delaware River Watershed from projects like this that pollute and pose potential catastrophe for the public. This project must be stopped to protect communities and the natural environment and to avoid feeding climate disaster,” **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

The letter also stated: “We submit that, based on review of the materials submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) by the applicant, 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. Endangered species such as Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon, wildlife and special aquatic life are threatened by the terminal wharf and dredging. One of the last natural areas of this part of the river will lose its most valuable attributes.”

The letter also pointed out the public safety and health dangers of flammable and hazardous LNG and natural gas liquids (NGLs). NGLs such as butane and propane would be increased in volume and be handled dangerously close to LNG. Local communities at risk include the nearest urban area of Chester, PA, only 2.7 miles away from the terminal, where environmental justice communities will be exposed; residential Gibbstown has backyards that adjoin the site’s property. Also at grave risk are people who live and work all along approximately 200 miles of public highway or rail tracks that would be used by hundreds of trucks or rail cars to transport the LNG from Wyalusing PA to Gibbstown every day. The LNG processing plant in Bradford County, PA would require more fracking of the Marcellus shale and the building of an industrial complex on the rural Susquehanna River, damaging public health and the environment.

The letter concluded: “In closing, we the undersigned diverse and geographically distributed organizations rely on you, the Commissioners of the DRBC, to make decisions regarding our watershed and water resources that are formed by comprehensive, scientifically based and technically sound information, seen through the perspective of the entire Delaware River Basin. We submit that this requires a vote against the expansion of the Gibbstown Logistics Center and the proposed Dock 2 LNG and NGL export terminal. We respectfully request you vote NO on the reconsideration approval of the docket for this project.”

Organizations that signed the submitted letter are (in alphabetical order):

198 methods
2002
350 Philadelphia
350 Pittsburgh
350 NJ-Rockland
A SMART Collaboration LLC
Already Devalued and Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany
Baltimore, MD Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace
Berks Gas Truth
Better Path Coalition
Beyond Extreme Energy
BlueWaveNJ
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines

Bucks Environmental Action
CAPP
CAPP NY
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Center for Coalfield Justice
Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War
Central Jersey Environmental Defenders
Citizens For Water
Citizens United for Renewable Energy (CURE)
Clean Air Council
Clean Ocean Action
Clean Water Action New Jersey
Climate Justice
ClimateMama
CNY Solidarity Coalition Climate Justice Committee
Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
Coalition to Ban Unsafe Oil Trains
Coalition to Protect New York
Compressor Free Franklin
Concerned Citizens of Lebanon County
Concerned Citizens of Rural Broome County
Cooper River Indivisible
CPYN
Damascus Citizens For Sustainability
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Delaware Sierra Club
Delawareans for Environmental Safety
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Don't Gas the Pinelands
EcoJustice Working Group Thomas Merton Center
Eco-Poetry.org
Edgmont Community Safety Coalition
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
EMPOWER NJ
Environment New Jersey
Environmental Health Project
Food & Water Action
FracTracker Alliance
Franciscan Response to Fossil Fuels
Friends of the Earth
Gas Free Seneca
Green America
Green Party of NJ

Haiti Solidarity Network NE
Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope
Indivisible NJ 5
JFK DEMOCRATIC CLUB FRANKLIN - SOMERSET COUNTY
L&R
Lancaster Against Pipelines
League of Women Voters of Delaware
Lebanon Pipeline Awareness
Love Leitrim - Ireland
Main Line Interfaith Green Group
Marcellus Outreach Butler
Marcellus Protest
mothers for environment
MoveOn.org Hoboken RESIST
New Jersey PACE
New Jersey Sierra Club
New Jersey Student Sustainability Coalition
New Jersey Tenants Organization
New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
New York Communities for Change (NYCC)
NJ Campaign Against Fossil Fuel Expansion
NJ Forest Watch
NJ Sierra Club, Hudson County Group
NJ Skylands Sunrise Hub
NJ State Industrial Union Council
NJ Student Sustainability Coalition
NJ Sustainability Coalition
North Jersey Sierra Group
Northern NJ NOW
Not Here Not Anywhere
NYC Grassroots Alliance
NYH2o
Orange Residents Against Pilgrim Pipelines
Our Revolution Ocean County
PA Senator Katie Muth
Partnership for sustainability
PennEnvironment
PennFuture
People Demanding Action NJ
People for a Healthy Environment
People Over Pipelines
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Possible Planet
Preserve Giles County
PROJECT COFFEEHOUSE
Protect Northern PA
Protect PT (Penn-Trafford)
Ramapough Mountain Indians
Raritan Headwaters
Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)
RHS Environmental Club
Save RGV (formerly SAVE RGV from LNG)
Save the Pine Bush
Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness
Seneca Lake Guardian
ShaleshockCNY
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
Sierra Club Southeastern Group
SOMA Action
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
Surfrider Foundation South Jersey Chapter
Sustainable South Jersey
UU Faith Action
Veterans Service Corps VSCamerica.org
Westfield 20/20
Westmoreland Marcellus Citizens' Group