



For Immediate Release
September 9, 2019

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NJ Department of Environmental Protection Makes Wrong Decision on LNG
*Re-instatement of Gibbstown Terminal for LNG export will harm environment
and threatens public health and safety*

Today, Sept. 10, 2019, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) stated that it has reinstated the Waterfront Development Permit for New Fortress Energy's Gibbstown Logistics Center, which proposes to export Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and NGLs (Natural Gas Liquids) from its facility being built in Greenwich Township, NJ on the Delaware River.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network considers New Jersey's decision to be a huge mistake that opens New Jersey and the Delaware River Basin to environmental degradation and the potential for catastrophic harm, threatens public health and safety, and endangers vulnerable marine species, among other substantial problems.

In short, LNG export from the proposed new dock and berths from the facility does not comply with coastal zone management regulations, flood regulations, nonpoint source pollution rules, and other bedrock protections. NJDEP does not even recognize that the community of Gibbstown is adjacent to the property, with schools, playgrounds, day care centers and homes right next door. This, despite the fact that NJ's Coastal Zone Management regulations require facilities to be compatible with surrounding land uses. Another example of a huge error is that the decision ignores the enormous issues caused by the pollution of the former industrial use of the site, which left highly toxic materials such as nitrobenzene, aniline, and PCBs in the ground at this Superfund site that is still undergoing groundwater remediation, shifting the burden of cleanup to other agencies within the bureaucracy. This is simply unacceptable.

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DRN calls on NJDEP to reconsider this poor and dangerous decision and instead rigorously apply environmental regulations and prioritize the requirement to protect our environment, public health, and the safety of our communities.

Background:

NJDEP issued the waterfront development permit for Dock 2 in error on May 20, 2019 and rescinded it on June 5, 2019 when they re-noticed the permit in the DEP Bulletin. The comment period ran for 15 days to June 20. The agency issued a letter <https://bit.ly/2m9K82L> and a comment and response document <https://bit.ly/2kEeSIO>, received today by Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Read DRN's comments on the draft Waterfront Development Permit here: <https://bit.ly/2m3vp9p>

Delaware River Partners (DRP) is the applicant for an expansion of the Gibbstown Logistics Center from the one dock with one ship berth that was previously approved. The company known as New Fortress Energy owns the facility, which is proposing the Dock 2 project that would support the export of LNG and natural gas liquids. Originally billed as a warehouse-type terminal with one dock and one shipping berth, the Center was going to handle automobiles, dry and refrigerated cargo. Bulk liquids such as natural gas liquids (NGL), like propane and butane, would be stored on site, utilizing the old cavern built by DuPont for the manufacture of explosives decades ago. NGL was to be exported by ship down the Delaware River to overseas ports. Since 2016, Delaware Riverkeeper Network and other organizations (NJ Sierra Club, Clean Water Action, and Environment New Jersey) opposed the project for environmental reasons and in opposition to the export of fracked natural gas liquids. The Gibbstown Logistics Center Dock 1 project was nonetheless approved.

The new proposal by DRP for the additional dock and berths is supposed to reflect New Fortress Energy's revised market plans – to concentrate on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and NGL and would potentially triple the amount of terminal activity at the Gibbstown Center. LNG would be brought to the site by truck and rail, itself a dangerous aspect of the proposal that would expose communities along hundreds of miles of highway and/or railway to the dangers of LNG, which can cause catastrophic explosions, fires, and potentially deadly human health impacts.