



EMPOWER NJ

NO FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS

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**New Jersey and Pennsylvania to be used as “Guinea Pigs”
Hazardous LNG by Rail Special Permit Approved
Statement by EMPOWER NJ**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) approved a Special Permit for the transport of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) by rail cars from Wyalusing, PA to Gibbstown, NJ. The approval was posted on Friday, December 6, on the PHMSA website: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=PHMSA-2018-0025-0074>. The Permit is also posted here: <https://bit.ly/2RGOCM9>

EMPOWER NJ calls the approval a reckless decision that endangers the lives and safety of millions of people in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Since the transport is only allowed from Wyalusing, PA, to the Gibbstown Terminal in NJ, the freight train corridor and its start and end points are essentially being used as guinea pigs for the industry to try to prove it is safe – despite the fact that the safety research that is needed prior to the transport has not been done. New Fortress Energy’s speculative project to export LNG from the shale fields of Pennsylvania to the Delaware River and then overseas for sale is turning the proposed project’s footprint into a sacrifice zone since it is the only place in the nation where it will be allowed. EMPOWER NJ condemns this affront to the public and the environment.

In addition to hundreds of miles across the two states, along rivers and streams, including the Delaware River, the freight trains could travel through densely populated areas such as Allentown, Reading and Philadelphia. The LNG trains, considered a new type of “bomb train”, would end their journey at the Gibbstown Logistics Center, which is

nestled up against residential Gibbstown, just across the river from Chester, PA, the Philadelphia Airport, and Tinicum Township and downstream of Philadelphia. The DOT 113 tank car is a 50-year-old design that has not previously been used for LNG, which is only allowed currently on rail in two small projects in the U.S. in ISO containers, not DOT 113 rail cars. The Special Permit does not limit speed or other provisions such as routing around populated areas, or special design specifications for containing LNG, classified as a hazardous, flammable liquid. LNG has unique and highly dangerous properties if the container is breached, including potential explosion with a wide impact zone and a fire so hot it cannot be extinguished.

The Special Permit was approved in response to a request by Energy Transport Solutions, a subsidiary of New Fortress Energy, for the use of 113C120W tank cars to carry LNG to a proposed LNG export terminal in Gibbstown, Gloucester County, NJ on the Delaware River from a LNG liquefaction processing facility New Fortress plans to build in Wyalusing Township, Bradford County, PA in the Marcellus shale region of the Commonwealth.

The Special Permit is an exemption from the federal prohibition of transporting LNG on the nation's railways and is restricted to travel between Wyalusing, PA and Gibbstown, NJ for two years. The exact route that would be used is not prescribed but the freight rail line that serves the Wyalusing Twp. region is Norfolk Southern. The Special Permit would allow 100 shipments per day and could entail the use of "unit trains", defined as 20 or more rail cars carrying the same product, in this case, LNG.

EMPOWER NJ sees New Fortress's LNG scheme and PHMSA's quick approval after the close of public comment on July 8 as a rash move to de-regulate the gas and oil industry by the Trump Administration. The approval comes while PHMSA's proposed rulemaking for the movement of LNG by rail is open for public comment to allow LNG to be railed all over the nation by any carrier, in response to an Executive Order by President Trump (<https://bit.ly/2LBs0sg>) to get LNG on the railways: <https://bit.ly/2DaTSix>.

The approval also signals the special favor that New Fortress Energy enjoys from political connections since special exception to federally forbidden LNG rail transport is supposed to be based on significant demand and substantial need for the transport. Those circumstances have not been demonstrated by New Fortress and, in fact, there is a global glut of LNG marked by "exceptionally weak demand": <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/a-massive-floating-lng-stockpile-has-just-been-unloaded?p=236598>

Empower NJ is a coalition of over 90 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups leading a grassroots campaign calling on Governor Murphy to act quickly on climate change by stopping all pending fossil fuel expansion projects.

<http://empowernewjersey.com/>