



**For Immediate Release
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Contacts:

Maya van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215.369.1188x102 or
215.801.3043 (cell) keepermaya@delawariverkeeper.org

Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215.692.2329,
tracy@delawariverkeeper.org

Delaware Riverkeeper Network Protests Extension of DRBC Approval for Proposed Gibbstown LNG Export Terminal *Public Cut Out of Review Process*

West Trenton, NJ – The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Executive Director Steve Tambini has unilaterally given approval for the extension of the permit to Delaware River Partners (DRP) for the proposed Gibbstown Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Export Project on the Delaware River ([Docket No. D-2017-009-2](#)), located in Gloucester County NJ (the “Dock 2 Project”). The request for approval should have been considered at a public meeting by the DRBC Commissioners, who are the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware and the Army Corps of Engineers, representing President Biden. Members of the public would have had the opportunity to participate in the regular public process afforded when applications are considered. Instead, it was quickly approved behind closed doors without any public review or scrutiny. The [request and approval letters](#) were discovered by Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Today Delaware Riverkeeper Network [has submitted a letter](#) to DRBC objecting to the approval process and requesting that Mr. Tambini’s letter be rescinded and Delaware River Partners’ application be referred to the Commission to be acted upon, as required by the DRBC’s Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The letter states:

“[Section 401.41(a)] clearly states that only the Commission has the ability to extend its approval of Docket No. D-2017-009-2, using the same procedure for Commission decision on applications for docket renewal. “Application” is defined in the RPP as “a request for action *by the Commission* in any written form.” 18

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
drm@delawariverkeeper.org
www.delawariverkeeper.org

C.F.R. 401.121. Applications are reviewed by staff, and decided upon at a public hearing after notice by the Commission. 18 C.F.R. 401.5. The Executive Director does not have the authority to act upon an application except in limited emergency circumstances—which do not exist here.”

The DRBC original approval of the highly controversial “Dock 2” project at the Gibbstown Logistics Center gave approval for dredging of the river and the building of a 2-berth dock in the Delaware River that would be used by enormous tanker ships for the export of LNG by Delaware River Partners, an affiliate of New Fortress Energy.

The approval was the subject of a closely [watched appeal brought by Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#) in 2019 that concluded in December 2020 after a Hearing and a vote by the DRBC Commissioners to allow the LNG export terminal to move ahead. Public opposition raged during this decisionmaking process with tens of thousands of people and many local governments expressing opposition. DRN [appealed the approval](#) and the case is currently in federal court.

The Dock has not been built and is currently on hold because of a federal requirement that no dredging, construction or other disturbance can occur in the water at the site to protect the federally endangered Atlantic sturgeon who live there. The prohibition of river disturbance runs from March 15 to September 15, when, if all approvals from other entities are in place, construction could potentially begin.

To read the letter submitted by Delaware Riverkeeper Network go here: <https://bit.ly/3zD4DrT>

To read the request letter from DRP and the approval letter from Executive Director Tambini go here: <https://bit.ly/3PYNdv3>

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