

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Press Release**

### **Environmental Advocates Denounce Plan for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Port Before Public Hearing**

**Long Beach, N.Y.** - Environmental groups including Clean Ocean Action, Catskills Citizens for Safe Energy, Food and Water Watch, Concerned Citizens of Montauk, and the Surfrider Foundation spoke out against the Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas facility at a press conference just before the public hearing on the matter at the Allegria Hotel in Long Beach, NY on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. The groups cited threats to tourism, commerce, and the marine environment, the connection to hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) upstate, the deficiencies in the application, and the fact that an identical project was vetoed by Governor Christie all as reasons to reject this project. Hundreds of citizens attended and spoke out against the project at the public hearing as well.

The port would be located 17 miles south of Jones Beach, NY and would require 20 miles of seafloor to be dredged up for a pipeline to be laid connecting the project to an existing gas pipeline within the state waters of New York State off the coast of Atlantic Beach.

“Our local businesses are already struggling from Hurricane Sandy,” said Larry Moriarty, Chair of the Surfrider Foundation Central Long Island Chapter. “We can’t afford even the perception of further degradation of our oceans, waves, and beaches by dredging up the seafloor and industrializing the ocean. That might be enough to keep some people away from our beach and in their neighbor’s pool.”

While the application is for an import facility, existing Department of Energy approvals have authorized up to 40% of our domestically-produced natural gas to be exported to certain nations around the world, and more approvals are in the pipeline for exports to the rest of the globe. Opponents of the project say any LNG facility will be for both import and export and it will create demand for “fracking” via exports.

“There is no question that Port Ambrose would be a potential export facility, and given the current market conditions, I have little doubt that it will end up shipping fracked gas to Europe and Asia, said Bruce Ferguson of Catskills Citizens for Safe Energy. Therefore all the adverse impacts of fracking should be must be considered before the port is built.”

Governor Cuomo of NY has not made a decision yet on allowing fracking in NY State. The fate of this project could be influenced greatly by that decision.

"Port Ambrose would require a massive investment in dirty fossil fuels and a commitment to fracking at a time when the threat of climate change demands we switch to truly clean energy," said Eric Weltman, senior organizer with Food & Water Watch, a consumer advocacy organization. "New Yorkers are saying no to fracking and no to this ill-conceived hazard to our air, water and climate."

A letter to the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the Coast Guard was signed by over 130 organizations asking for more public hearings and to expand the timeline of the application. The application itself is over 4000 pages and it was made public less than one month ago.

"The review process is completely inadequate," said Jeremy Samuelson, Executive Director of Concerned Citizens of Montauk. "The public is asked to accept that Port Ambrose will be an import facility but we know the license can be converted to an export license by the Secretary of Transportation, with no public notice and no public hearings. Port Ambrose is not about importing gas from Trinidad, it's about exporting fracked gas from New York. Every New Yorker deserves a review process that considers likely uses and their impacts."

Times have been tough for imported LNG lately. Two similar ports in Boston have not seen any imports in the last 2 years due to the high prices LNG cargoes can fetch elsewhere. And in early 2011 Governor Chris Christie vetoed an identical project.

"Port Ambrose, an imports/exports facility, will violate our land and sea for today and future generations," said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action. "The facts reveal that there is not one redeeming benefit to we the people, it puts our region and ocean in harm's way, and will increase energy costs to citizens and businesses. For these reasons and more NJ's Governor Chris Christie used his powers under the Deepwater Port Act to veto this proposal not once, but twice over the last two years. The arrogance of this company and the enabling by the Maritime Administration to continue this process sets the stage for 'Gasland 3 – Shale to Shore'".

Another public hearing will be held in Edison New Jersey at the Garden State Convention and Exposition Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, New Jersey 08837 (Open House 4:30-5:30 and a Public Hearing: 6:00-8:00PM).

More on the Port Ambrose LNG proposal [here](#)

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