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Proposed Procedures for Liquefied Natural Gas Export Decisions

Comment On: DOE-HQ-2014-0009-0001

Proposed Procedures for Liquefied Natural Gas Export Decisions

Document: DOE-HQ-2014-0009-DRAFT-0003

Comment on FR Doc # 2014-12932

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General Comment

Monday, July 21, 2014

U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34), Attn: Proposed Procedures
Office of Oil and Gas Global Security and Supply
Office of Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042
1000 Independence Avenue SW.
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Stop the export of natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing -- Proposed Procedures for Liquefied Natural Gas Export Decisions (Docket ID: DOE_FRDOC_0001-2555)

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Christopher A. Smith,

The oil and gas industry is pushing hard to export more natural gas obtained from hydraulic fracturing and other extreme methods overseas, likely leading to hundreds of thousands of new drilling wells across the country. These new wells would make money for the gas companies, but they would cost many Americans their health and safety. Plus, this drastic increase in hydraulic fracturing operations would accelerate climate change--which we simply cannot afford.

"Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

The Department of Energy recently released a woefully inadequate report about the greenhouse gas emissions associated with liquefied natural gas. This report fails to look at the actual impacts of hydraulic fracturing and other extreme natural gas extraction technology on our climate. Please do not base your agencies' energy policies on such a flawed report.

"As we peer into society's future, we--you and I, and our government--must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow."

-- Dwight D. Eisenhower

When writing policy on issues like fracked gas export, it is crucial that federal agencies consider the cumulative impacts from hydraulic fracturing. Exports on the scale sought by oil and gas interests--an amount equivalent to over 60 percent of U.S. natural gas produced--would likely lead to hundreds of thousands of new hydraulic fracturing wells in the United States. These expanded hydraulic fracturing operations would not just cause significant harm to surrounding communities, they would accelerate climate change.

"Then I say the Earth belongs to each generation during its course, fully and in its own right, no generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its own existence."

-- Thomas Jefferson

In the face of climate change, we must swiftly transition away from all fossil fuels, including natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing. Please oppose the export of natural gas and oil.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

-- Aldo Leopold

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lish
Olema, CA