

United States Senate

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RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

July 21, 2014

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Oil and Gas Global Security and Supply,
John Anderson, Director
Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042,
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I write in regards to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) proposal to amend its process for review of applications to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) to non-free trade countries. According to its Federal Register notice on June 4, 2014, DOE would cease issuing conditional licenses to export LNG to non-free trade countries, and instead would prioritize review of projects near completion of environmental permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As you know, DOE proposes to act on LNG applications 30 days after the publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement.

I would like to express my support for the procedural changes as described in the Federal Register notice. By prioritizing LNG projects that have substantially completed their NEPA review, DOE would provide a clear path forward for projects that are commercially mature to receive evaluation of their export applications. The proposed procedure would ensure that applicants otherwise ready to proceed with construction are not held back by their position in the current DOE queue. This change would increase the transparency and certainty of the regulatory process for LNG projects, thereby facilitating competition and the development of markets for U.S. natural gas. While altering the framework for conditional authorizations changes the process, proposed procedural revisions may assure that DOE's input is timely and relevant as a participatory agency in the NEPA review process.

The United States is home to abundant low-cost natural gas resources, and our domestic industry is a global leader in developing and deploying advanced technologies in the field. As the Department's own studies demonstrate, LNG exports can create wealth and jobs at home while bolstering the security of America's allies overseas. Exports clearly benefit the public interest, and LNG applicants have waited far too long for review by DOE as one part of a long and complex regulatory process. DOE's proposed procedural changes represent a step in the right direction to provide greater clarity for participants in this review. I would urge DOE to act expeditiously to implement these changes to allow for a prompt review of future LNG permits. For questions or further information on this matter, please contact Mark Brunner in my office at Mark_Brunner@warner.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Warner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "W".

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator