


From: 
Subject: Liquefied Natural Gas Export Terminal Permit Request comment
Date: Thursday, January 24, 2013 2:24:15 PM

I speak as a Pennsylvania resident who has seen and heard first-hand the destructiveness of hydraulic fracturing in my home state and in Ohio. Allowing Big Oil and Gas to export natural gas will only make it more profitable for them to drill and frack, intensifying the harm to our communities from the industry's destructive methods. At the same time, LNG exports won't provide economic benefits to the vast majority of Americans.

Allowing LNG exports is shortsighted and wrong.

How is an industry that regularly uses 600 chemicals in the ground, in the air and near water sources to be exempt from the Clean Air, Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts? We must also consider the destruction of roads in a time when U.S. infrastructure is already pushed past its limits, well and pipeline explosions are becoming common and there's the release of radioactive elements from the shale itself - which has found its way into Pennsylvania rivers. Thousands of people getting sick and requiring fresh water not just to drink, but to shower in, after natural sources have been contaminated, is going to be very expensive. And that doesn't include the possibility of class-action lawsuits.

Before you approve another permit to fracking or encourage the transportation of natural gas, live for a while next to a well pad being drilled, flared and operated.

As of January 11, 2013, the oil and gas industry submitted 17 proposals to export natural gas to countries that are not free trade partners. These are the proposals that the Obama administration is weighing. But widespread drilling and fracking puts our public health at risk. It creates industrial zones next to homes, farms, parks, schools and water supplies. The regulatory agencies, which are now short-staffed, have admitted publicly they are not equipped to handle the onslaught of permit requests and inspections and it's obvious when looking at the Pa. Department of Environmental Resources website to see how many violations have not been fined.

Talk to people living next to wells -- even those who were previously of the "Drill, Baby, Drill" mindset -- to hear horror stories. Don't worry - you don't have to trek through frack pads and compressor stations -- you can easily

find them online.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPM64kseP30&feature=youtu.be>

They feel they've been colonized and swept under the rug, as their livestock, pets and families suddenly become ill and their water goes bad. Every part of the process pollutes water and air.

If you haven't watched any of the numerous documentaries or read any of the studies or newspaper articles or television news accounts of what gone wrong out West and in Pennsylvania, just listen to Dr. Theo Colborn's explanation:

<http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/chemicals.video.php>

Allowing more natural gas to be exported will drive the oil and gas industry to drill and frack for as much gas as it can, as fast as it can. Fracking as it stands needs to be stopped, not intensified. Science should always go before industry and the opposite has happened here.

The plans to export natural gas are being sold as a net economic benefit, without looking at who would actually benefit. The 2012 LNG Export Study commissioned by the Department of Energy makes it clear that almost all Americans -- that is, those in "households with income solely from wages," have to just hope that some benefits "trickle down" from the huge windfalls that LNG exports will bring to the oil and gas industry and its Wall Street backers. This is an outrageous excuse to promote more drilling and fracking, which directly harm innocent people in communities all across our country, every day.

The consultants who did the study have strong industry ties that puts their credibility into question. Their analysis was narrow and simplistic, without considering the external costs. The exporting of LNG would intensify the pace of shale gas extraction and processing. The current pace of unwelcome, unexpected extraction is already more than the people - who are unfortunate enough to find themselves living above gas infused shale - can bear.

The process that has made retrieval of shale gas possible - is different from other industrial processes, which are concentrated in areas set aside for that purpose and zoned industrial. HVSWHF takes place in communities - near homes, schools, hospitals - in farms, parks, forests and ecologically sensitive areas. External costs are thus imposed upon the

community - such as property devaluation, infrastructure damage, community cohesion de solution, skyrocketing rental costs, and corruption of the political process by the money and power of the industry. Public health impacts are wide spread and well known, yet under reported and unstudied.

We do not have the scientific studies to show whether the natural environment is able to maintain its integrity amidst the current extensive extraction processes, let alone an increased, unmitigated further rush. HVSWHF is extremely complex, inherently risky, and inadequately studied for its environmental impacts. It is poorly regulated - at both the state and federal level - and the regulations are often not enforced. Monitoring is sorely lacking, since there are thousands of wells everywhere, in various stages of development. Water withdrawals impact streams, aquatic life, wetlands and riparian areas. Water wells, ground water, ponds and the land itself have been contaminated. Forests may never recover from their fragmentation, loss of large trees (and their carbon sequestration), loss of animal habitat, the introduction of invasive species and the loss of biodiversity.

Air quality is negatively affected not only by the actual drilling but by the many processing stations. The diesel pollution from thousands of trucks is both a public health risk and a global warming contributor. The sand used in the process is a silicosis risk for the communities where it is mined and processed and for the workers.

The negative long-term economic effects of a boom - bust cycle on communities by extractive industries is well documented throughout history. Ultimately the community ends up less healthy and wealthy after the resource is depleted and the industry leaves.

The negative impacts on other industries such as agriculture, tourism, outdoor recreation, etc. must be taken into consideration in an economic analysis. Not to mention the lives and health of hard-working, tax- paying Americans.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and response.