

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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2012 LNG Export Study: Freeport LNG Expansion, LP and FLNG Liquefaction, LLC; Lake Charles Exports, LLC; et al.

Comment On: DOE-HQ-2013-0001-0001

2012 LNG Export Study: Freeport LNG Expansion, LP and FLNG Liquefaction, LLC; Lake Charles Exports, LLC; et al.

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Comment on FR Doc # 2012-29894

Submitter Information

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Organization: Texas Department of Transportation

Government Agency Type: State

Government Agency: Texas Department of Transportation

General Comment

Please see the attached comment from the Texas Department of Transportation.

Attachments

DOC122412



January 24, 2013

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

RE: 2012 LNG Export Study

Dear Secretary Chu:

Natural gas provides a critical and significant source of job and revenue growth, and Texas' natural gas development and production is playing a key role in driving the nation's economic recovery. Through incentive and innovation, Texas has successfully capitalized on its abundant supply of natural gas and has diversified its energy portfolio. Led by the ingenuity, vision and boldness of Texas entrepreneurs and state support of promising technology, Texas is leading the way toward energy independence for our nation.

However, this rapid growth in supply, without an accompanying increase in domestic demand, has led to an artificially constrained market. Restricting the ability to export excess domestic productions deprives domestic producers of the ability to fully maximize production potential. The recently released NERA report, commissioned by the Department of Energy to examine the macroeconomic impacts of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from the United States, confirms that supplies are sufficient to meet domestic demand and that, under every modeled scenario, the United States is projected to gain significant net economic benefits from allowing LNG exports. In other words, increased trade will result in additional demand, which will stimulate further investment, more production, and more jobs in Texas and across the country.

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In this regard, the \$5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal, which is expected to be completed in late 2014 or early 2015, along with the current energy developments in the United States, provides opportunities to expand global trade throughout our ports. The new locks being added as part of the expansion will accommodate larger and wider vessels. The maximum vessel size increases from 5,000 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) to 13,000 TEUs with the expansion. These wider locks will be able to accommodate LNG tankers, which currently cannot use the canal. This development will open the Asian market to LNG exports.

The NERA report underscores the need to act quickly to move pending export project permits through the approval process. As the Panama Canal expansion nears completion, the Texas Department of Transportation is prepared to be a partner in facilitating the exportation of LNG.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phil Wilson
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor, State of Texas
Texas Transportation Commission
Coby Chase, Director of Federal Affairs, TxDOT