

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 3:03 AM
To: LNGStudy
Cc: FERGAS
Subject: Comment on 2012 LNG Export Study

January 23, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

It was with dismay that I read the report that concluded that exporting LNG will be beneficial for the United States. As someone who has followed the natural gas industry closely as it has expanded in my home state of Pennsylvania, I am well aware of the problems already occurring when we are still at the very beginning - less than 10% - of the projected wells for PA.

LNG exports are the prize that the natural gas industry has been anticipating from the start, as evidenced by comments made by CEO's to stakeholders years ago. The premise of energy independence that was used to convince rural families to open their land to drilling, along with promises of royalties that often don't materialize, were simply a ruse used to start the pipelines flowing from the shale plays to the export ports, where the only real profits will be seen by the industry executives and their stakeholders, not the citizens asked to "sacrifice for the greater good of their country" - a phrase I had to hear once again this evening.

If we were truly interested in energy independence, we would only extract the gas that we need and carefully preserve gas reserves for the future. The gas is not going anywhere, so there is no need to rush to extract it all as quickly as possible - unless there are large profits to be made along the way.

It is quite clear that once exports are approved and profits are realized in higher markets, well activity will increase significantly, at the expense of those who live in drilling impacted areas. The economic impacts on some families through property devaluation or even complete loss are mounting - were these issues included in the over all economic outlook?

While there are so many flaws within this report, following are a few issues to consider:

- Exporting LNG will drive up demand, leading to unrestrained development of unconventional shale gas wells across the US. States such as PA, which does not tax natural gas extraction, will be particularly exploited.
- Hydraulic fracturing is exempt from the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and Superfund Act, making the US vulnerable to severe environmental degradation without recourse, while the gas industry is given unfair industrial advantages and assured higher profits in overseas trading.
- Exporting LNG requires that natural gas be carried by pipeline, creating demand for hundreds, if not thousands, of miles of high volume pipelines. Eminent domain has already taken property from citizens for gas pipelines: are pipelines headed for export ports really beneficial for society and therefore eligible for eminent domain land seizures?
- The exporting of LNG, especially if approved for non-trade agreement countries, will globalize the price of natural gas, raising manufacturing, heating and electricity costs across the board. The DOE report seems to suggest that these costs will be mitigated if one has invested heavily in gas industry stocks. The report itself states that "impacts will not be positive for all groups in the economy. Households with income solely from wages or government transfers, in particular, might not participate in these benefits." How is this an economic advantage to the majority of Americans working hard just to make ends meet?
- LNG exports are not likely to affect the overall level of employment in the U.S - so much for all those jobs we are told the gas industry will provide.

In conclusion, it seems evident that LNG exports will certainly benefit a few, but the overwhelming majority of US citizens will not benefit, and many will actually lose in the process through diminished property values as well pads and gas infrastructure expands exponentially across the country. Indeed, just as the gas will transfer from the shale plays to higher paying foreign markets, so will the wealth of the American people transfer from the citizenry to the CEO's or even the pockets of foreign investors - another point admittedly not included in this study.

Please, do not use this incomplete and biased study to determine whether or not to export LNG. The citizens of America deserve a carefully researched study that incorporates and places an economic value or loss on every facet involved with shale gas extraction. Only then can we truly decide whether or not exporting our precious, finite fossil fuels makes any sense at all.

I hope you will carefully consider my comments; thank you for accepting public comment on the DOE study concerning the economic impacts of exporting LNG.

Sincerely,
Ann K. Pinca
Lebanon, Pennsylvania