

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LNGStudy](#)
Subject: Say no to permits to export frack natural gas
Date: Thursday, January 24, 2013 2:49:30 PM

Dear Dept. of Energy officials,

I am a retired biology/ecology professor with a Ph.D. in that field, and a resident of the northern panhandle of West Virginia. I have spent huge amounts of time and energy studying and getting funding for the remediation of huge messes of acid mine drainage left behind in Harrison County by the last corporate fossil fuel frenzy in northern West Virginia, that of poorly regulated underground coal extraction. The efforts of the volunteer Guardians of the West Fork watershed group, which I co-founded with a retired coal-mining foreman, and which has spear-headed mitigation projects costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, are, unfortunately, just a drop in the bucket compared to the ongoing needs of hundreds of miles of polluted streams in West Virginia with little in state and federal budgets to help.

Our governments and their agencies never learn. The avalanche of drilling and fracking for Marcellus and Utica shale natural gas is proceeding at a pace that is foolhardy, given the lack of proper study on the various health and environmental effects of the massive extraction, compression and use of this new reservoir of fossil fuel. Lots of good evidence has established real, long-term risks to landowners, water quality and decreased property values. The gathering of even better evidence is being stonewalled by governments and agencies that will not conduct the thorough studies designed with enough statistical power to discover important impacts, for if they are discovered, they will embarrass interests too big to be stopped. Absence of evidence of harm is not evidence that no harm exists, but often merely the result of a lack of decent studies that have never been done. And newer research is showing that the methane escaping from leaking wellheads makes these shale plays actually more harmful in terms of global warming than coal. And chemicals used in fracking are ending up in the bodies of people who live adjacent to these new wells.

The Obama Administration appears to be in a rush to rubber stamp these permits. How hypocritical. President Obama just highlighted the importance of climate change in his second inaugural address. Exporting the natural gas will simply embolden drilling companies to proceed with relatively high rate of methane leakage and worsen global warming. It will increase prices for domestic users of the natural gas. And, there is a considerable energy cost and carbon footprint in the compression to liquid form. Chesapeake Energy and other companies that indebted themselves up to their eyeballs should have thought about the glut they were creating before they created it. Their lack of planning should not be turned into our crisis, and into an even greater stack of externalized costs that will be forced down every one else's throat.

West Virginia and parts of several other states repeatedly have become sacrifice zones for the enrichment of others who do not have to suffer the ill effects, or are rich enough to avoid many of the externalized costs that proceed from fossil fuel extraction and use. Come to West Virginia and I will show you counties that once sat on coal reserves that have sold for billions of dollars, and these counties still remain some of the poorest in the country.

NO to all permits enabling the compression and international export of frack natural gas.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Bruce Edinger, Ph.D.
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