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From: Heidi Gogins [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 12:15 PM
To: LNGStudy
Subject: my comment on approving exports of shale gas

Dear Folks at DOE,

As a small business owner in NYC for the last 35 years and a farm owner in the Catskill Mountains of upstate NY for the last 15 years, I have become extremely concerned about the long term economic and environmental implications of the current shale gas rush.

The kind of fracking now being done across the country is a relatively new technology, first used in the Barnett Shale only a little over a decade ago. We simply have no idea YET about its health effects, its climate impacts, or its social and economic impacts on the communities it chooses to exploit. We do know that mineral extraction is typically a boom/bust operation and leaves drilling and mining areas worse off economically and environmentally. We do know that many people in areas where drilling is widespread are getting sick and that their water is being contaminated and their air quality is being degraded.

We also know that the argument used in upstate NY to promote shale gas drilling has been that it will provide "energy independence" and reduce dependence on "foreign oil imported from our enemies". This argument becomes patently untrue if the gas, rather than remaining in the US for domestic use, can be exported and sold to the highest bidder. Allowing the export of fracked shale gas is, quite simply, a license to treat our rural citizenry as expendable in order to further enrich companies like BP, Shell and Exxon, to name but a few.

True energy independence will come when the US takes seriously the new climate reality and stops pandering to the fossil fuel industry and postponing the necessary and inevitable transition to renewable energy.

I implore you to consider the damage you will do by permitting shale gas exports. Say NO to exporting gas and give voice to the millions who understand the need for renewable energy NOW.

Heidi Gogins

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“If you think something little cannot make a difference you have never been in bed with a mosquito.”
Mahatma Gandhi