

Posting of Off-the-Record Communication

The attached document was sent to the Department of Energy in reference to this proceeding, Commonwealth LNG, LLC, Docket No. 19-134-LNG. This document is considered an “off-the-record communication” under 10 CFR 590.102 and 590.108 because (1) the person/entity who either made the communication or knowingly caused the communication to be made is an “interested person;” (2) the communication was directed to a “decisional employee;” and (3) the communication “is relevant to the merits of the proceeding.”

The comment period for this proceeding has closed. This communication is posted here in compliance with regulations. As provided in 10 CFR 590.108(a)(5), a request by a party wishing to rebut this communication, on the record, may be submitted in writing. As specified in this regulation, such requests will be granted “only for good cause.”

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Jennifer Granholm
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear President Biden & Secretary Granholm,

December 20, 2024

Much appreciation to you and your staff for completing the Department of Energy (DOE) studies used to evaluate applications for LNG export authorizations to non-FTA countries. In your recent statements, you have said that it will be up to the next administration to determine the future of LNG export levels, including whether or not the most recent studies are applied and pending applications are approved or denied. While your hope is that the review of these pending authorizations would be based on facts and the public interest of all residents in the United States of America, we know already that the next administration plans to charge ahead with approving pending LNG export authorizations within the first few weeks of taking office, something you acknowledged is not sustainable nor advisable.

We implore you to take action and deny the six applications for LNG export projects with pending authorizations at DOE.

You know as well as we do, that leaving the decision to the next administration will result in the kind of unfettered LNG export buildout that you warned against. Either, the next Department of Energy (DOE) will ignore the studies and rubber stamp the authorizations, or they will attempt to refute them without regard for the data. While the updated studies and the January pause on pending and new LNG export authorizations have been huge steps in the right direction, **we urge you to take this next step to deny the permits for CP2 LNG, Commonwealth LNG, Magnolia LNG, Lake Charles LNG, Saguaro Energía LNG and Port Arthur LNG** to meaningfully impact the conditions on the ground for frontline communities. We also ask that you apply the final studies to Rio Grande LNG and Texas LNG, both of which already have export authorizations but are pending a re-review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). These two projects pose a tremendous threat to the entire Rio Grande Valley of South Texas, and sites that are sacred to the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas.

Our communities rely on agencies like the DOE to be a check on the massive corporations that are all too willing to sacrifice our lives for their own profits, but we are not going to have those protections in the coming years. While we will continue to fight, denying these projects now gives us a leg up in the battle we have before us.

With the support of public interest organizations, we have started to acquire the data and tools to fully understand and share the grave impacts that the LNG buildout is having on our communities and will have in the future if preventative action is not taken. *Permit to Kill*¹ used EPA modeling tools to quantify the impacts that more LNG exports will have on our health and lives. CP2 alone would result in an average of 8.8 premature deaths every year. Those aren't just data points, it is us! *The People Always Pay*² details just how much these massively wealthy corporations withhold from our communities. They make billions of dollars in profits and often pay nothing in state and local taxes. *Explosive Truths*³ is a new report that details the risks that we live with everyday, since we have no other way of being made aware of these risks, such as the threat of explosions like we experienced at Freeport LNG. Your own studies detail the economic impacts that more LNG exports will have on everyday people. We in the Gulf Coast and millions of other Americans simply cannot afford the higher bills associated with additional LNG exports. One data point that really stuck out is that CP2 alone has higher greenhouse gas emissions than 139 countries in the world! That is unacceptable. And we're now learning that they are planning a CP3!⁴

This is not an academic or political exercise for us - we are literally fighting for our lives and for the communities where we are trying to raise our families. Denying these projects positions us to take on the new administration and their promise to authorize more exports on day 1. We know that FERC is working on Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements for CP2 LNG and Commonwealth LNG. But that shouldn't stop you from concluding that these projects are contrary to the public's interest. Regardless of what FERC's analysis finds, your own findings on the economic impacts and greenhouse gas emissions are enough to conclude that these LNG export projects will cause significant harm to the economy and our communities.

A delegation of us requests a meeting with you and your staff in early January to discuss next steps. We are willing to meet virtually or come to Washington DC on our own accord to both celebrate these studies and your hard work, and make a final appeal for denying authorizations. We will follow up via email to make arrangements for this meeting.

Kind Regards,

Travis Dardar
Fishermen Involved in Sustaining our Heritage (FISH)
Cameron, LA

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¹ Johanna Heureaux-Torres, Andres Chang, Tim Donaghy, "Permit to Kill," Greenpeace USA and Sierra Club, August 12, 2024 (<https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-usa-stateless/2024/11/47b90812-permit-to-kill.pdf>)

² Claire Dorner, Roddy Hughes, Alison Kirsch, "The People Always Pay," Sierra Club, December 2, 2024, (https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/lng_taxabatment_report_final.pdf?v=20241204.001)

³ Elissima Menezes, Andrew Dumbrille, "Explosive Truths," Greenpeace Germany, December 9, 2024 (https://www.greenpeace.de/publikationen/ExplosiveTruths_Report_f.pdf)

⁴ Ruth Liao, "Venture Global LNG Considers Fifth Export Project in Louisiana" Bloomberg, November 26, 2024 (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-11-26/venture-global-lng-considers-fifth-export-project-in-louisiana?embedded-checkout=true>)

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