

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

****July 10, 2013****

Contact:

Cindy Zipf, Clean Ocean Action, Executive Director (732) 996-4613 (cell)
Lindsay McNamara, Clean Ocean Action, Press Inquiries (908) 310-6729 (cell)

NEW JERSEY'S CHANCE TO SAY NO TO OFFSHORE LNG PROPOSAL

Groups and Citizens Hold Press Conference to Announce Citizen Hearing

Edison, N.J. - Environmental groups including Clean Ocean Action, Food and Water Watch, and Edison Wetlands Association blasted the offshore Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas facility at a press conference just before the public hearing at the New Jersey Expo and Convention Center in Edison, NJ on Wednesday, July 10, 2013. The groups cited reasons to reject this project including, threats to tourism, commerce, and the marine environment, the connection to hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), the deficiencies in the application, and the fact that an identical project was vetoed by Governor Christie. Hundreds of citizens attended and spoke out against the project at the public hearing as well, with momentum building in opposition to Port Ambrose following last night's public hearing in Long Beach, NY.

"I am proud that so many residents came and spoke out yesterday. I repeat my demand that the public be provided more information, more time for comment, more hearings and more opportunity to be heard," stated **Nassau County Legislator David Denenberg (D-Merrick)**. "This project has security, economic, commercial and environmental concerns that must be discussed and dealt with before closing off public comment and moving to the next step," stated Mr. Denenberg.

'Port Ambrose' has been proposed off the coast of Long Branch, NJ, and 17 nautical miles south of Jones Beach, NY. The project is the same proposal that New Jersey Governor Chris Christie vetoed. The only difference is the name. The project, if licensed, would allow both exports and imports of natural gas, resulting in accelerated hydro-fracking in the region and higher energy costs.

While the application is for an import facility, existing Department of Energy approvals have authorized up to 40% of our domestically-produced natural gas to be exported to certain nations around the world, and more approvals are in the pipeline for exports to the rest of the globe. Opponents of the project say any LNG facility will be for both import and export and it will create demand for "fracking" via exports.

"This proposed LNG facility has the capability to destroy our Garden State. New Jersey is one the most densely populated areas in the country and our Jersey Shore generates millions of dollars through

summer recreation alone,” said **Dana Patterson, Edison Wetlands Association’s Program Supervisor**. “Our communities must not be put at risk so a precarious facility can operate for pure profit without consideration for our water quality, diverse sea life, thriving fisheries, or health and safety of our residents,” she explained.

“The last thing our still suffering Sandy damaged NJ Shore needs is an LNG export facility. We know the process of fracking to extract the gas destined for export risks our drinking water, air, and ocean as it is not even regulated,” said **ocean advocate and paddler Margo Pellegrino**. “With this proposed terminal we increase this risk to our own drinking water and ocean, our own health, and pay more for our own ‘home grown’ energy as prices skyrocket with European demand for our dirty fuel. To say the idea of such a facility anywhere on the East Coast, but especially here in this most trafficked of all waterways is a ‘bad idea’ is an extreme understatement,” added Pellegrino.

"Port Ambrose would require a massive investment in dirty fossil fuels and fracking at a time when the threat of climate change demands we switch to truly clean energy," said **Matt Smith, an organizer with Food & Water Watch**, a consumer advocacy organization. "In this post-Superstorm Sandy era, New Jersey residents are saying no to fossil fuels, no to fracking and no to this ill-concieved hazard to our air, water and climate," stated Smith.

“Liberty Natural Gas, an unknown and well-connected foreign company is using their significant money, lobbyists, and influence to bring this floating disaster to our region. By holding this hearing in Edison, NJ, the Maritime Administration is trying to ignore the Jersey Shore, which is why we are hosting a “Citizen’s Hearing” tomorrow in Sea Bright, NJ,” explained **Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action**. “Citizen’s voices unable to get to Edison can come and testify and the comments will be officially submitted for the record,” said Zipf.

A citizens’ hearing, organized by Clean Ocean Action, will be held on **Thursday, July 11 in Sea Bright, New Jersey** at the Sea Bright Public Beach (1099 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, NJ 07760). There will be an informational open house from 4:30-5:30 and the hearing will be from 6:00-8:00 PM. Comments made at this hearing will be submitted to the federal government.

More on the Port Ambrose LNG proposal [here](#)

###