



Ronald R. Cox
Vice President
Power Supply

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U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Attn: Larine Moore and Marc Talbert
Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities, Office of Fossil Energy
P.O. Box 44375
Washington, DC 20026-4375

Via email: fergas@hq.doe.gov

Re: FE Docket No. 12-32-LNG

Dear Mr. Talbert & Ms. Moore,

Hawaiian Electric Company supports long-term authorization to export liquefied natural gas produced from domestic and Canadian resources to non-Free Trade Agreement (NFTA) countries. The Governor of Hawaii recently asked Hawaiian Electric to move forward with plans to include natural gas in Hawaii's energy portfolio. After preliminary study, we believe that LNG exported from the U.S Pacific Coast could provide economic and fuel security benefits that are desired for Hawaii. Therefore, Hawaiian Electric supports construction of LNG export facilities on the U.S. Pacific Coast that would provide access to abundant natural gas supplies being developed in both the U.S. and Canada.

The magnitude of infrastructure required to economically produce LNG requires a large base-load customer, making long-term financial commitments in order to justify an enormous investment. However, once such a facility is in-service, incremental expansions can be made to supply the LNG needs of additional, smaller customers such as Hawaii. While Hawaiian Electric is currently exploring the possibility of substituting domestically produced LNG for imported oil, a transition to LNG requires first and foremost a source for and access to reasonably priced LNG. A world-scale LNG facility, underpinned financially by export commitments to NFTA customers, would provide a foundation upon which smaller-volume LNG users, such as Hawaiian Electric, could piggyback.

For these reasons, we support and ask that you approve substantiated and credible applications to export LNG to non-Free Trade Agreement countries.

Sincerely,