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By Docket Room at 11:17 am, Jan 16, 2013

From: [redacted]
To: LNGStudy
Subject: Comments on 2012 Liquified Natural Gas Export Study
Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 10:04:42 AM

Dear Department of Energy,

The study on the impacts of exporting LNG is flawed when it found exporting natural gas would benefit the American economy. While it will benefit a few energy corporations, the study found that most of us will simply have to pay a higher price for natural gas – up to 25% more. The study also found families will have to pay higher electric rates and there would be no net increase in jobs. The Department of Energy should consider the economic impacts of export on the Americans who will be harmed by this.

The study failed to consider that exporting natural gas will increase fracking, a controversial natural gas drilling method. Fracking uses millions of gallons of water per well. The study failed to consider the cost of billions of gallons of water from the arid West that would be required to produce natural gas for exporting, especially during a drought and concerns over lowering aquifers. The water and chemicals used for fracking are highly contaminated and must be disposed of safely. The current practice is to inject it back into the earth, but this practice has caused earthquakes. The study failed to consider the costs of these environmental impacts.

Increased drilling for natural gas will increase the rate of global warming and climate change. The cost of damages from increased storm intensity, flooding, and droughts that are exasperated by global warming, were not considered in the report. A recent study found that up to 9% of the natural gas drilled from wells escapes into the atmosphere. This massive increase in methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times the CO2 equivalent of carbon, was not considered.

Exporting natural gas means new pipelines and LNG terminals need to be built. The DOE study failed to consider the environmental costs of this new infrastructure, and the social cost to the hundreds of families that would have their land condemned by multinational corporations under the pretense that it is in the public good, instead of just for corporate profits.

We agree with Senator Wyden (D-OR), who said the study needed “more realistic market assumptions” than the 2010 market report it was based on. Wyden also found that the DOE study fails to “consider the significant domestic demand growth," such as use of natural gas as a transportation fuel used by heavy trucks, public transportation, and the railroad industry.

Senator Wyden concludes the DOE study “is not an adequate basis upon which to approve” individual applications, such as the Jordan Cove proposed export facility or the Pacific Connector Pipeline.

We ask the Department of Energy to denounce this study as inadequate and make a more realistic study of the true costs of exporting our domestic fuels.

Sincerely,

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