

Port Ambrose Fact Sheet: A Proposed Offshore Liquefied Natural Gas Facility



WHAT is Liquefied Natural Gas (“LNG”)?

Liquefied Natural Gas is natural gas that has been super-chilled to -260 degrees, turning it into a liquid that is 1/600th the original volume of gas. It is clear, colorless, odorless, and extremely volatile. This gas is compacted so large volumes can be shipped overseas. LNG should not be confused with gasoline or compressed natural gas.

LNG is Expensive. The intensive energy use required to liquefy natural gas and shipping costs makes LNG up to three times more expensive than domestic natural gas.

LNG is Dirty. It results in up to 40% more greenhouse gas emissions than domestic natural gas due to a lifecycle that requires super-cooling, transporting overseas in giant tankers, and heating back to gaseous form.

WHAT is Port Ambrose?

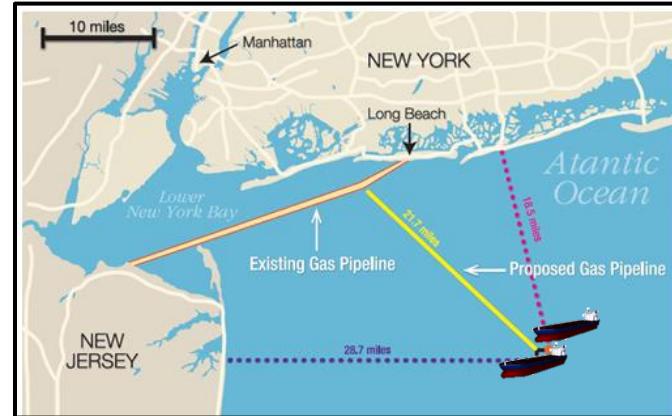
A company, Liberty Natural Gas (confusingly also known as LNG), has proposed an offshore port called “Port Ambrose,” which would import or export liquefied natural gas off the coasts of New York and New Jersey. The port would allow two LNG vessels (which are as long as the World Trade Center Tower is tall) to directly connect to the region’s natural gas system, but the capacity could be expanded.

WHERE will this port be located?

At the gateway to the NY/NJ Harbor, approximately 18 miles off Long Island and 28 miles off New Jersey.

WHO is Liberty LNG?

Liberty Natural Gas is a foreign energy interest – the corporation may be licensed in Delaware with an office in Short Hills, NJ, but it is managed by an investment group in Toronto, Canada, and entirely **owned by a bank account in the Cayman Islands**. There’s no way of determining who is behind the company.



BAIT AND SWITCH—Port Ambrose Will Export US Natural Gas.

Port Ambrose is currently proposed as a facility to “import” natural gas from foreign sources. However, clearly there is no need; the United States has an abundance of natural gas. The real plan is that Liberty Natural Gas will flip this facility into an EXPORT facility to ship US domestic natural gas to Europe or to the highest bidder. This will dramatically increase the hydro-fracturing (fracking) of natural gas here in the US, and increase pressure to tap new sources, such as in the Marcellus Shale in New York.

Port Ambrose Puts Public, Environment, Economy at Risk:

Port Ambrose threatens public safety and is vulnerable to attack. The US Coast Guard is already overburdened and unable to monitor existing LNG tankers; new tankers increase risk. The port is located:

- Within a few miles of the most densely populated area in the United States.
- Within the air traffic of 3 international airports, and many smaller airports.
- Between navigational channels for ships including chemical and petroleum tankers traveling into the busiest port in the Atlantic Ocean.
- In a highly trafficked area; each year, hundreds of thousands of boats and ships use the area near the tankers.
- In stormy seas; during Superstorm Sandy, wave heights were nearly 30 feet.

Port Ambrose displaces renewable energy proposals:

- NY is proposing to build a wind farm in the same area; they are incompatible. It’s one or the other.

Port Ambrose threatens the environment:

- Exports will increase fracking of upland regions, contaminating drinking water, increasing greenhouse gas emissions, and creating toxic waste streams.
- LNG tankers importing LNG will cause air and water pollution and destroy billions of fish eggs and larvae each year.
- It will dredge up nearly 20 miles of sea floor.
- Pipelines and operations will cause increased air pollution and harm hundreds of marine mammals.

Port Ambrose threatens the economy:

- Commercial and recreational fishermen and divers will be excluded from large areas of important fishing grounds.
- Exports will increase natural gas costs.
- It will squander the US domestic energy supply and US energy independence for foreign sources.
- Port of New York and New Jersey shipping and commerce will be delayed due to security requirements near tankers.

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Why is Liberty Natural Gas (Liberty LNG) looking to build now?

For the last few years, natural gas prices overseas have skyrocketed; in Europe and Asia natural gas can cost several times more than here in the U.S. Energy companies are scrambling to build LNG facilities for exporting United States-produced natural gas overseas. Already, licenses have been granted to export over 40% of U.S. daily production, and Congress recently passed a law allowing exports from ports like Port Ambrose. The U.S. is on track to be a net exporter of LNG by 2016 and of all natural gas (via LNG and pipelines) by 2020, undercutting U.S. energy security.

What about jobs?

Five (5) permanent jobs will result from the port. In addition, there are 6 consulting firms (none located in New York or New Jersey) that have been hired to facilitate the building of Port Ambrose. Short-term jobs will be created during the construction phase, but these will be based either in Port of Coeymans, NY or Quonset Point, RI (neither place local to the NY/NJ region). Compare this to the thousands of local, high-paying, permanent jobs that a green energy future would bring.

Who supports Port Ambrose? Very few:

Over 24,370 citizens submitted comments on the first phase of Port Ambrose, **only 17** were supportive. COA is currently reviewing the approximately 60,000 comments submitted in the second phase. The ANTI-LNG coalition includes 129 fishing, labor, homeowner/civic, faith-based, political, education, environmental, fishing (commercial/recreational), and surfing groups. Many towns have passed resolutions opposing the project.

The license is FOREVER.

Once issued, the license of this facility could be sold to another company without public review or comment.

What is the status of the project?

Under the Deepwater Port Act, the U.S. Coast Guard and Maritime Administration (MARAD) are the lead agencies charged with reviewing the application. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released for public review in December 2014. Due to massive public opposition, questions regarding fiscal responsibility, air quality conformity issues, and pipeline depth deficiencies, the U.S. Coast Guard and MARAD, in a [letter](#) dated March 17th, has asked that the “clock be stopped,” thus stalling the process.

What can be done to stop Port Ambrose?

Fortunately, under the Deepwater Port Act, the governor(s) of adjacent states have the power to VETO a proposed facility, which is exactly what NJ Governor Christie did in 2011. In 2007, Liberty Natural Gas proposed the same project under a different name. Now we must affirm Governor Christie's vow to veto any LNG port off New Jersey and pressure Governor Cuomo to also make a vow to veto Port Ambrose.

What can you do?

Get Onboard! In the first phase, over 24,000 citizens opposed Port Ambrose, and only 17 said yes.

- ✓ **Sign the Petition** at www.cleanoceanaction.org. Tell friends and family (all ages) to sign. Download copies of the petition from COA's website to collect signatures and return them to COA.
- ✓ **Commit to the campaign:** Discuss the project and LNG with an organization in which you are active. Get a commitment from your organization to participate in the campaign to oppose LNG facilities and sign a “**Statement of Opposition**,” which is available at www.cleanoceanaction.org.
- ✓ Join the **Anti-LNG coalition** by going to cleanoceanaction.org, and on **left** panel, click on “**Email List Sign up.**”



Take Additional Action!

Here are some additional actions to take against Port Ambrose:

- ▶ Write a letter to your governor asking him to veto Port Ambrose.
- ▶ Write letters to the editor of local and regional newspapers opposing the project and encouraging citizens, organizations, and elected officials to take action.
- ▶ Let the federal government know your concerns with Port Ambrose! To leave a comment, visit www.regulations.gov and search for docket number USCG-2013-0363, or visit www.tinyurl.com/LNGcomments.
- ▶ Support “The New Jersey/New York Clean Ocean Zone Act,” which is bi-partisan, bi-state legislation to permanently protect the waters off the NY/NJ coast from polluting activities and facilities, such as LNG ports (visit www.cleanoceanzone.org).

TOGETHER WE CAN STOP LNG!

Spread the word to oppose LNG, sign up for action, get more facts & sign the petition!

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