

LNG: EXPORTING NATURAL GAS

Bad for Oregon & Bad for America

Veresen, a Canadian energy company, has asked our government to export natural gas to Asia via Oregon. They want to compress domestic gas into liquid form for export, creating **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** at a new terminal, proposed to be built in Coos Bay Oregon.

Veresen claims they need to export because fracking has produced so much natural gas, that they have saturated the domestic market. While the LNG terminal and 230-mile pipeline is entirely within Oregon, almost none of the gas would be delivered to the continental United States. It is virtually all to be shipped to benefit non-free trade countries like China.

Exporting LNG from Oregon is a Bad Idea Because:

- * LNG is a highly processed fossil fuel that contributes to climate change;
- * It will increase the highly polluting practice of fracking;
- * It will increase our domestic gas prices;
- * It will cause the loss of over a million American manufacturing jobs;
- * It requires eminent domain against hundreds of families for the pipeline;
- * It undermines a future of energy independence.

LNG Contributes to Climate Change:

Some claim that natural gas is a bridge fuel because, when burned, it emits less greenhouse pollutants than coal. However fracked LNG is as dirty as coal. It is not a “bridge fuel”.

Significant amounts of methane drilled by fracking escapes into the atmosphere.¹ The process of fracking, liquefying, shipping, and other methane leaks along the way, increases the contribution to climate change even more since methane is 86 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide² when it escapes unburned into the atmosphere.

The Oregon DEQ is permitting the Jordan Cove LNG Terminal to emit 2,166,000 tons of CO₂e per year, more than half of what Oregon’s only coal plant, Boardman Coal, emits³. Boardman is so polluting it is closing by 2020 to help meet Oregon’s emission reduction goals. The LNG terminal will then become Oregon’s highest greenhouse gas contributor. And that doesn’t even count the emissions caused by fracking, shipping and burning the natural gas.



Public forests in the path of the pipeline.

LNG Export Would Increase Fracking:

In order to win the right of eminent domain, to take private property for the pipeline, Veresen must prove there is a public need to export LNG. They do this by claiming increased fracking

¹ <http://www.nature.com/news/methane-leaks-erode-green-credentials-of-natural-gas-1.12123>

² <http://www.epa.gov/outreach/qanda.html> “86 times more potent” is based on a 20-year period.

³ Boardman Coal Plant emitted 4,077,5444 tons of CO₂e in 2010.

will increase jobs and stimulate the economy⁴. However, fracking uses immense amounts of water in dry areas, mixed with chemicals that pollute groundwater. The highly polluted water from drilling is pumped back underground, causing earthquakes⁵.

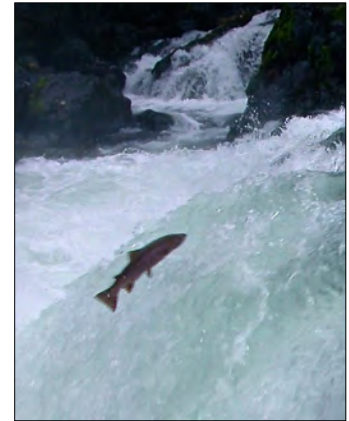
LNG Would Increase Gas Prices and Decrease Jobs:

Exporting gas would cause families and businesses to compete on a world market for natural gas. Studies have found this would raise natural gas prices by up to 25% and electric bills by 3%⁶. This threatens U.S. jobs where factories depend on natural gas. The DOE has determined up to 1.2 million manufacturing jobs would move overseas⁶. This entire project will only produce 145 permanent Oregon jobs, with 1/3rd of those out-of-state hires.

LNG Requires a 230-mile Pipeline and Eminent Domain:

Construction of the 230-mile pipeline would require a clearcut of 95-150 foot wide swath through family farms and public forests. Farmers are opposed to living with a high-pressure, unodorized safety hazards and hardships of permanently hosting a pipeline. The company refuses to consider royalties and instead offers a tiny, one-time payment. Over 600 landowners would be forced to accept unfair offers if corporations win the right of eminent domain, stripping citizens their rights to negotiate a fair price, or just say no.

The pipeline would also pass through 70 miles of public forests that provide homes to imperiled wildlife, and crosses over 400 waterbodies that contribute clean water for salmon. The pipeline, LNG terminal, and shipping would impact 28 species protected under the Endangered Species Act, including 7 species of whales, 4 sea turtles, 2 salmon species, 4 other kinds of fish, 7 plants and 4 birds⁷.



Corporations Are Allowed to Cut Safety in Rural Oregon:

Most southern Oregon families are in a “Class 1” location because of lower population density, allowing for lower safety standards in rural areas. Examples of corporate cost savings in rural areas include: fewer weld inspections (10% vs. 100%), thinner pipes, shallower trenches, greater distance between shut-off valves, higher gas pressure, and fewer pipeline patrols and leak surveys. Even though Oregon has mountainous forests with unstable soils and prone to landslides and forest fires, safety is reduced.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is expected to make a final decision summer 2015. **To comment, go here: <http://www.cascwild.org/lng-comments/>**

For more information, and to see how you can make your voice heard:

www.cascwild.org/combating-climate-change/no-pacific-connector-lng-pipeline/

⁴ Jordan Cove Resource Report 1, March 2012. Page 9-10

⁵ Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. August 6, 2012.

⁶ Department of Energy NERA Study. 12-3-2012.

⁷ Biological Assessment for the Jordan Cove Energy and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline Project. 9-2013.

Cascadia Wildlands