



CITY OF LONG BEACH

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December 8th, 2014

Ms. Yvette Fields, Director
Office of Deepwater Ports and Offshore Activities
Maritime Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W21-309 (MAR-530) Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Mark Prescott, Chief
Deepwater Ports Standards Division
U.S. Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE Washington, DC 20593

Re: Docket Number USCG-2013-0363; Public Hearing

Dear Ms. Fields and Mr. Prescott:

As you know, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Port Ambrose liquefied natural gas (LNG) deep water port has been published this month. The City of Long Beach requests that MARAD and USCG permit an extension to 90 days for public comment on the proposed Port Ambrose offshore LNG facility, pursuant to federal regulations interpreting the National Environmental Policy Act, including 40 CFR 1506.6(a) and 40 CFR 1506.6(c)(1).

The residents of Long Beach and the greater New York area have the right to fully consider the impacts of an LNG port and to publicly voice their concerns. The proposed site poses a serious threat to security and public health, as it is located just miles from our densely populated city, not to mention the stress it will put on the surrounding ecosystems, including our beautiful beachfront. The seriousness of the proposed site, in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6(c)(1), warrants an extension for public comment as well as an additional meeting closer to the proposed siting.

As such, the Long Beach City Council thinks it is vital that, in the interest of transparency and full public participation, a third meeting be held in the City of Long Beach due to its proximity to the proposed site and its convenience as a meeting location. Furthermore, because the City was designated as a Public Scoping Hearing location on July 9, 2013 at the Allegria Hotel, we believe it is logical to maintain consistency, as many statewide groups and residents from Long Beach and the surrounding communities attended the standing room only meeting.

The proposed location and time for the New York public hearing at the Hilton New York JFK Airport, in reference to 40 CFR 1506.6(a), lacks the convenience necessary to properly engage the public. Meeting at a location that is notorious for gridlock traffic, during peak rush hour, will not afford the time a South Shore resident needs to make it from their home or workplace. Furthermore, the location does not offer

convenient public transportation, as residents, from both New York City and the South Shore, will have to make multiple transfers to get to JFK Airport. Long Beach offers a much more convenient location, as it is equipped with a LIRR Train Station approximately 50 minutes from the heart of Manhattan and Brooklyn, and for drivers, the Atlantic Beach Bridge from Queens and the Meadowbrook Parkway from Long Island.

Though we recognize and appreciate the extension of public comment from 45 to 60 days, we still believe it is unreasonable to expect residents to attend meetings that are severely restricted by both time and location, especially during the winter season, when families are more distracted by the holidays and driving can be more difficult due to snow and ice.

Therefore, we respectfully, yet emphatically, request an extension of time to 90 days and an additional meeting for public comment to be held in Long Beach.

Sincerely,

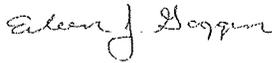
Long Beach City Council



Scott Mandel
President



Fran Adelson
Vice President



Eileen Goggin
Council Member



Len Torres
Council Member



Anthony Eramo
Council Member



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Maritime
Administration**

Administrator

Southeast Federal Center
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

January 5, 2015

Mr. Scott Mandel
President
Long Beach City Council
1 West Chester Street
Long Beach, New York 11561

Dear Mr. Mandel:

This is in response to the Long Beach City Council's letter of December 12, 2014, regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Port Ambrose Deepwater Port License application. In that letter, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) were asked to permit a 90-day public comment period for the Port Ambrose DEIS and hold an additional public meeting in the City of Long Beach, New York. The public comment period for the Port Ambrose DEIS will be extended an additional 30 days (from 60 to 90 days). With regard to an additional public meeting in Long Beach, I am unable to support your request at this time. There will be at least one final public meeting scheduled. However, the date/time and location(s) have not yet been confirmed.

As you acknowledge, on December 16, 2014, MARAD published in the Federal Register, a Notice of Availability (NOA); Notice of Public Meeting; Request for Comments (NOA) (79 FR 74808) for the Port Ambrose application. In preparation of the NOA, MARAD and USCG gave full and careful consideration to the challenges of establishing a 45-day comment period for public review of the Port Ambrose DEIS. Both MARAD and USCG recognized that 45 days would not allow adequate time for public review and comment on such a robust and comprehensive environmental document. For those reasons, MARAD and USCG proactively elected to have a comment period of 60 days.

I do understand that the comment period occurred, in part, during the traditional winter holiday period. Thus, I have approved the request for a 90-day public review and comment period for the Port Ambrose DEIS. This approval will extend the comment period until Monday, March 16, 2015. This extended 90-day comment period will provide a reasonable amount of time for all interested parties to submit their comments to MARAD and USCG for review and consideration. An amended Federal Register Notice will be published by mid-January 2015. Additionally, I will ensure that MARAD representatives provide public announcement of my decision at the DEIS public meetings, scheduled for January 7-8, 2015, in Jamaica, New York and Eatontown, New Jersey. I encourage you and others to take advantage of the comment period and participate in the upcoming DEIS public meeting in Jamaica, New York.

There will be additional opportunities for public comment on the Port Ambrose application during the final public meetings that will occur later this year. As the planning process for those meetings develops, I will ensure that full consideration is made for maximum accessibility to these public meetings. Moreover, my agency will explore other feasible methods of public participation, such as a webinar or webcast. An advance notice of the final public meetings will be provided in the Federal Register at the appropriate time.

I appreciate your interest in the Port Ambrose proposal and look forward to receiving any additional concerns you may have regarding this project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul N. Jaenichen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Paul N. Jaenichen