



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

1 WEST CHESTER STREET  
LONG BEACH, NEW YORK 11561  
(516) 431-1001  
FAX: (516) 431-1389

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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