



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

1 WEST CHESTER STREET  
LONG BEACH, N.Y. 11561  
(516) 431-1001  
FAX: (516) 431-1389

## CITY COUNCIL

SCOTT MANDEL, PRESIDENT  
FRAN ADELSON, VICE PRESIDENT  
EILEEN GOGGIN, COUNCIL MEMBER  
LEN TORRES, COUNCIL MEMBER  
ANTHONY ERAMO, COUNCIL MEMBER

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Honorable Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Re: The Liberty Natural Gas, LLC application to the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) for the construction of Port Ambrose (docket number USCG-2013-0363)

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We, the members of the Long Beach City Council, would like to express our unanimous opposition to the construction of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) deep water port, **Port Ambrose** (docket number USCG-2013-0363), proposed by the private investment group Liberty Natural Gas, LLC approximately 17 nautical miles southeast of Jones Beach, NY. We strongly urge you to veto this proposal.

Our City is an ocean beach community with a 2 ¼ mile long newly rebuilt boardwalk and an adjacent 3 ½ mile white sand beach which is open to the public year round and is a regional destination during the summer months. The construction of a LNG import facility (with potential to export) would negatively affect the Long Beach ecology, safety/security, economy and the quality of life of our residents. Long Beach is still rebuilding from Superstorm Sandy with many residents not back in their homes and businesses struggling to remain open. Long Beach is also without a hospital which causes health and safety concerns. Therefore Port Ambrose is seen as an additional burden during the recovery process, especially without adequate health facilities.

We understand the need for increased energy sources in our state. However, we do not believe that Port Ambrose is the correct approach. Uses of alternative energy such as wind should be seriously considered. Any benefits derived from enhancing the natural gas supply are outweighed by the negative environmental and safety issues as well as, the disruptive navigational and recreational impacts this project will have.



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

1 WEST CHESTER STREET  
LONG BEACH, N.Y. 11561  
(516) 431-1001  
FAX: (516) 431-1389

The council believes that the proposed project poses an unacceptable risk from the standpoint of environmental, health and economic issues. Please find attached, excerpts from the City of Long Beach public scoping comments for the Port Ambrose project, outlining additional concerns. The council respectfully requests that you consider our comments and opposition in your deliberations on this important issue.

We further request that you support our opposition to the proposal by vetoing it. We thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Mandel  
President

Fran Adelson  
Vice President

Eileen Goggin  
Council Member

Len Torres  
Council Member

Anthony Eramo  
Council Member



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

1 WEST CHESTER STREET  
LONG BEACH, N.Y. 11561  
(516) 431-1001  
FAX: (516) 431-1389

*Excerpts from the  
Port Ambrose Project: Public Scoping Comments from the City of Long Beach,  
NY  
Submitted August 22, 2013*

“The City of Long Beach would like to state its concerns regarding the proposed LNG facility Port Ambrose. Please consider the following environmental, security and economic concerns in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)”

“Liberty Natural Gas, LLC states that there will be a minimal to non-existent visual impact.<sup>1</sup> What would be considered minimal? Will there be an increase in ship congestion off the coast of Long Beach that would cause a negative visual impact? This is a concern for the City of Long Beach as our beach is a significant part of our visitor economy as well as a natural asset. If views are compromised this may affect local businesses and city beach pass revenue.”

“ICF International estimates that Port Ambrose will reduce the average annual price of natural gas across the New York City area by 4%. This would equate to an annual direct savings of up to \$325 million to New York area natural gas customers. Savings will mostly be concentrated around peak winter and summer demand.<sup>2</sup> Is this reduction enough to justify the project? How much savings is this per customer? Will this reduction bring more stable prices through competition and increased supply? How vulnerable is our gas supply to shortages? Where can the reports that indicate additional supplies of LNG will be needed in New York and New Jersey be found?”

“It is our understanding that there are two other ports (one in Boston and the other in the Gulf of Mexico) currently in operation. Are these ports being utilized to their full extent? Does this usage justify the expansion into the New York Harbor Area? What has been their record of operation in the areas of safety, economic impact, environmental impact and security?”

“What is the probability of leakages into the ocean water or underground aquifer from a major disaster? If so, what are the consequences to the immediate shorelines?”

“What fail-safe processes are being put in place for quick containment and mitigation to preserve and protect our shoreline and pipeline that runs through our city from a potential intended or unintended impact (i.e. terrorist attack)? Are there sufficient funds set aside for accident clean-up/mitigation? Can we assume that there was careful consideration of the location choice as an

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://portambrose.com/project-location/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://portambrose.com/project-need/>



## CITY OF LONG BEACH

1 WEST CHESTER STREET  
LONG BEACH, N.Y. 11561  
(516) 431-1001  
FAX: (516) 431-1389

accident has the potential to cause damage to Long Island's economy, environment and health? What were the criteria considered for location choice? Is this the best possible location?"

"What is the likelihood that Port Ambrose would be used as an exporting facility in the future? This does seem to be a likely scenario as the international market at present has a higher demand (therefore higher price) for natural gas.<sup>3</sup> If Port Ambrose does become an export facility it is understood that this may have the potential to either expand or intensify hydraulic fracturing ("Fracking") practices in our region."

"Would Port Ambrose accept from "Fracking" sources?"

"The issue regarding the environmental impacts at the source of LNG is believed to have a direct relationship to this proposed project and should therefore be considered in the EIS. This would also include the potential future sources that Port Ambrose would utilize."

"As there are currently a great number of unanswered questions the City of Long Beach is apprehensive about the Port Ambrose Project. In our deliberations, the City has considered our constituent' concerns expressed at the public hearing held at the Allegria Hotel on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013."

"Based upon the information we have at this time, we must conclude that the Port Ambrose project will not bring an overall net benefit to our community and the City of Long Beach does not support the implementation of Port Ambrose."

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.smartenergyuniverse.com/spotlight/16509-lng-market-demand-and-supply-forecast>