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Texas LNG Brownsville LLC; Request for Extension of Export Commencement Deadline

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Importation or Exportation of Liquified Natural Gas or Electric Energy; Applications, Authorizations, etc.: Texas LNG Brownsville LLC; Request for Extension of Export Commencement Deadline

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General Comment

We are living the climate crisis. In Texas, there is an increasingly deadly winter and tropical storms. Fossil fuels are known to exacerbate climate change and should have been phased out years ago. Instead of protecting communities, our legal system allows polluting industries like Texas LNG to move forward in places like ours.

Brownsville and Port Isabel are home to low-income, predominantly Hispanic communities in one of the poorest counties in the country. Many residents are severely underinsured—or have no health insurance at all. We are already living with the consequences of climate change: summers are becoming longer and dangerously hotter, and our air quality is already poor.

Texas LNG would make these conditions worse. Its emissions would include pollutants that can worsen respiratory illness and are linked to cancer. Fine particulate matter, or PM 2.5, is especially dangerous because it can be inhaled deep into the lungs. The largest current source of PM 2.5 pollution in our part of South Texas is the Frontera Energy Center in Mission, which emits 86 tons of PM 2.5 each year.

Texas LNG would not be the only new gas facility in our area. Rio Grande LNG is already under construction nearby. Together, these facilities would release 278.04 tons of dangerous particulate matter into our air. Our air quality is already unacceptable; adding more pollution would put our health and safety at even greater risk.

The Department of Energy should deny Texas LNG’s request to extend its export deadline. The company has had more than enough time to move this project forward and has failed to do so. We do not want it in our community.

We already live near SpaceX, another polluting and potentially explosive industry. Texas LNG would be located within a 6- to 7-mile radius of the launch site, yet no explosive risk assessment has been completed. Meanwhile, Rio Grande LNG has already caused devastating harm to our natural habitat. Allowing Texas LNG to proceed would deepen the damage to our fragile coastal ecosystem.

The Department of Energy must say no to Texas LNG and reject its request for an extension to build this facility.