

Posting of Off-the-Record Communication

The attached document was sent to the Department of Energy in reference to this proceeding, Jordan Cove Energy Project, L.P., docket number 12-32-LNG. This document is considered “off-the-record communication” under 10 CFR 590.102 and 590.108 because the person/entity who submitted it is an “interested person,” the communication was directed to a “decisional employee,” and the communication addressed the merits of the proceeding.

The comment period for this proceeding has closed. Therefore, this communication will not be considered as a part of the record. It is posted here in compliance with regulations. As provided in 10 CFR 590.108(a)(5), a request by a party wishing to rebut this communication, on the record, may be submitted in writing. As specified in this regulation, such requests will be granted “only for good cause.”

From: [Karen Austin](#)
To: [Secretary](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Suggestions for changes in FERC
Date: Friday, February 19, 2021 1:04:25 PM

Dear Secretary Granholm;

I am writing to you to bring the following issue to the forefront of FERC and DOE. Many of us in Oregon have been against the Canadian gas Liquid Natural Gas facility and the 229-mile Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline across private and public land. You are no doubt aware that President Biden identified climate change as one of his top four priorities, and announced he would seek to put the U.S. on a path towards “net-zero” greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This LNG project will increase carbon emissions and will cause destruction of Oregon fisheries and federal lands and cause potentially drastic changes to private lands, while mostly benefitting a Canadian company.

Here is what Oregonians are asking from FERC:

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you, the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) Commissioners to re-write your outdated pipeline policy. As Commissioner Clements called for at the January 19, 2020 hearing. As someone who has been researching, and testifying against the proposed Jordan Cove LNG export terminal and fracked gas pipeline, I’m aware of the shortcomings of the current policy in regard to considering projects’ impacts to climate change and the private landowners in the path of a pipeline.

I am very concerned about your Agency’s prioritization of industry profits over the climate impacts that projects such as Jordan Cove Energy Project have when determining whether a gas terminal and 229 mile pipeline is truly a public benefit. President Biden identified climate change as one of his top four priorities, and announced he would seek to put the U.S. on a path towards “net-zero” greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Our country is affected more and more by the impacts of our changing climate, and it is imperative that we begin taking measures to reduce emissions to avoid further destabilization of our climate system. Concerns about the increased greenhouse gas emissions associated with gas terminal and pipeline projects should far outweigh industry’s private profit. with regard to the Commission’s rulings on “public benefit.” FERC must take these impacts into consideration when making these decisions.

I am also concerned about the current rules that govern the use of eminent domain to seize private land for pipeline construction. It is fundamentally unjust and heavy-handed for pipeline companies to drag landowners into court to condemn their land, before projects have acquired all federally mandated permits and before landowners can seek relief from the courts through rehearing requests. The premature use of eminent domain for the construction of pipelines is unnecessarily harmful to American citizens, who have their property seized and permanently damaged under the premise of “preconstruction.” In addition, the Agency must not be allowed to issue conditional orders, which open up the possibility for the condemnation of private property under eminent domain in situations in which federally mandated permits

have yet to be obtained.

I encourage FERC to take measures to reform its pipeline policy to better incorporate concerns about impacts to landowners and the climate. The commission has an opportunity to revise these rules in order to uplift considerations of projects' climate impacts when making decisions on public benefit, and to stop the unconscionable seizure and destruction of property under the guise of "preconstruction" prior to the approval of critical permits, final authorization or a Notice to Proceed (NTP).

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Karen Austin

Thank you Secretary Granholm for considering our requests for more reasonable FERC rules covering pipeline policies.

Karen Austin
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