



TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

COUNCILMAN KEVIN T. McCARRICK, DISTRICT 2

TESTIMONY BY BROOKHAVEN TOWN COUNCILMAN KEVIN T. McCARRICK BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

May 7, 2007

Good afternoon Subcommittee Chairman Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member Steve LaTourette, and members of the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

My name is Kevin McCarrick representing Council District 2 Brookhaven. My district encompasses parts of Terryville, Ridge and Coram, as well as the hamlets of Miller Place, Mount Sinai, Rocky Point, Sound Beach, Shoreham and East Shoreham. As the elected local representative for the hamlet of Wading River I am greatly concerned regarding the potential effects of locating an LNG Barge facility off Shoreham/Wading River in Long Island Sound.

Anyone who doubts the sincere and overwhelming magnitude of local public concern need not take my office or any other elected official's word. They need not consult leading environmental activists or science experts regarding the Broadwater Proposal. Indeed all anyone needs to do is recall the 1,000 plus residents of our northeastern communities who attended the FERC public hearing of January 11, 2007, some parking as far as a half mile just to attend. We as a community from all walks of life and all occupations voice in near unanimous harmony a reverberant NO to the Broadwater proposal.

Among the many concerns was the real possibility of a terrorist incident at this site. Sadly, we live during a period of history where the very possibility of such an action is ever

present. We live with the very real possibility of an attractive target drawing and increasing the likelihood of a terrorist action based on the very nature of the activity. A large floating LNG bomb is undeniably such an entity that by its very nature increases the likelihood of an attack. Just as World Trade Center stood as a beacon of our nations economic might, so it's size attracted two attacks over the course of 8 years. Each causing alarm culminating with the unthinkable catastrophic incident forever burned into the American psyche.

We run the same type of risk by the very nature of this LNG proposal regardless of what anyone states. The reality of the terrorist mind needs to be confronted boldly. I have been active in considering this set of facts. Official governmental publications support these concerns and we need to seriously consider them. My constituents and I will be impacted directly by the LNG barge, tankers and other related activities.

We are deeply concerned with the statements in the Coast Guard Report released on September 21, 2006, which candidly admits that the U.S. Coast Guard does not have the resources to provide security for the LNG barge and tankers or provide rescue service for the workers on the tankers and barge. The local fire departments are not equipped to respond to the magnitude of possible incidents such as LNG fires or explosions.

I attended the hearing conducted by the Suffolk County Legislature's Committee on Energy and the Environment last month where GAO staff answered questions from the committee and the public regarding its recent report on the public safety consequences of a terrorist attack on LNG tankers.

The statements at that hearing underscored the fact that the potentially disastrous impacts of LNG accidents, explosions and fires have yet to be studied sufficiently. Most troubling is the fact that there is not scientific unanimity on the question of the distance one must be from an LNG fire in order to be protected from heat burns. Indeed, the Sandia Report--which is the foundation for the DEIS--is being called into question as to the 1 mile estimate of the distance

one must be in order to be protected from burns from an LNG fire. The range, according to some experts weighing into the GAO, may be closer.

We learned for the first time at that Suffolk County Legislative hearing that the GAO is conducting additional studies as to the safety of LNG facilities. One will review the Coast Guard's ability to secure LNG facilities. A second will review the impact of LNG fires on marine life. These reports will be released too late to be considered in the FEIS for the Broadwater proposal.

In conclusion, I would urge this committee to finally consider the many questions and few available answers to this proposal. GAO is conducting an additional examination of the issues surrounding Coast Guard's ability to respond. At minimum, this Committee should request that FERC refrain from taking further action on the Broadwater proposal until this GAO Report on the Coast Guard's security capability is completed.

The time this would take to accomplish is but a small investment in the future of our collective security. This is not merely a regional issue rather we are dealing with a national issue with far reaching consequences.

We know that major energy corporations are seeking to cite such LNG facilities across the nation, we must be prepared to address this issue with careful study.

Perception of the world post 9/11 has changed because it has to. We as a region and nation have no choice. In similar fashion, this **MUST** be factored into the equation because there is no choice. Can our Coast Guard and EMS handle the catastrophic burden of a terrorist action? Are we as a local government prepared to shoulder additional burden providing security and emergency medical services to those unfortunate to become casualties.

Locally our hospitals are under siege, grappling with questions of funding. There are very real possibilities that some may be forced to curtail services or close.

If this becomes reality will we be able to service anticipated victims? This needs to be examined closely. Local government will need to be there as a support system to deliver vital services. I ask the Committee to carefully consider these facts as you assess the outlined costs of Coast Guard resources, please remember the local governmental burden. Our residents and those who serve our community every day deserve nothing less.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you.