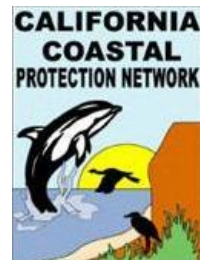




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CABRILLO PORT LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG): NOT SAFE FOR OUR COAST OR OUR COMMUNITIES

Prepared for the California Coastal Protection Network (www.CoastalAdvocates.com)
by the Environmental Defense Center (www.EDCnet.org)



What is the Cabrillo Port?

- Australian multinational mining corporation BHP Billiton is proposing to import liquid natural gas, or LNG, from across the Pacific Ocean to “Cabrillo Port,” a first-of-its-kind floating terminal that would be moored offshore Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, and near major shipping lanes used by commercial transports, recreational boaters and US Navy vessels.
- Cabrillo Port would receive LNG from tanker ships, store the LNG in on-site tankers, process the LNG back into a gaseous form, and then pipe the gas via undersea pipelines to a receiving facility at Ormond Beach in Ventura County. BHP Billiton intends to install new, high pressure underground gas pipelines onshore at or near the communities of Oxnard, Camarillo and Santa Clarita.

Should I be concerned about the safety of Cabrillo Port?

- An LNG spill on the ocean creates a hazard zone with attendant risk of fire, explosion, gas asphyxiation, and/or cryogenic burns. Released LNG will partially revert to its gaseous state, creating a vapor cloud that, if ignited, could cause a fire ranging more than seven miles from the Cabrillo Port terminal or a tanker in transit. An accidental LNG tanker collision with the terminal or another vessel, a deliberate terrorist attack, human error during operations, equipment failure, or a natural disaster such as an earthquake could cause a tanker failure and resulting vapor cloud fire.
- The Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (FEIS/EIR) for Cabrillo Port acknowledges fire risk but fails to analyze the true extent of a potential hazard zone. A worst-case terrorist event or accident involving all three storage tanks on board the terminal could result in a fire extending beyond the 7.3 mile zone predicted in the FEIS/EIR.
- A floating, offshore, deepwater LNG facility like Cabrillo Port has never been built or operated anywhere in the world. BHP Billiton cannot guarantee the safety of its proposed facility, because the technology has never been tested. A recent GAO report confirms that the models used to predict impacts in the FEIS/EIR are not sufficiently conservative to protect public safety.
- The US Department of Energy has commissioned an updated study on LNG safety that will be completed in 2008. The Cabrillo Port FEIS/EIR relies on outdated, incomplete and potentially misleading information.

Can an accident happen at Cabrillo Port?

- Tankers – each one the size of three football fields – would offload LNG twice a week onto a floating terminal. The seas around the proposed site are known for storms and powerful, turbulent wave action.
- According to the US Geological Survey, the LNG terminal and gas pipelines would overlay a number of seismic fault lines prone to major earthquakes. USGS has estimated the likelihood of a significant earthquake occurring within 30 miles of the terminal and within the next 30 years to be greater than 35%.
- Accidents at or involving LNG and other oil and gas facilities do happen and have caused serious loss of life and property all over the world, including in the US. Here are just a few examples:
 - ◆ During Hurricane Rita, a BHP Billiton oil and gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico was ripped from its “hurricane-proof” moorings and drifted for more than 100 miles before coming to rest near shore – upside down.
 - ◆ In 2005, an underground LNG pipeline exploded in Kalakama, Nigeria, after the ignition of a pipeline leak. The resulting explosion caused a raging fire that engulfed area farms and destroyed nearby marine life. Eleven people were missing after the fire, which took more than 48 hours to extinguish.
 - ◆ Also in 2005, a tanker truck carrying LNG caught fire near Reno, Nevada, likely due to a static electricity spark. The flames from the fire were 40 feet high and burned for over 24 hours before being extinguished.
 - ◆ In 2004, leaking gas from an LNG pipeline infiltrated the steam boiler at a processing facility in Algeria. The subsequent fire precipitated a larger explosion which killed 27 workers and injured 80 more.

What will happen if there is an emergency at Cabrillo Port?

- Despite the risks and uncertainties identified above and in the FEIS/EIR, proposed risk aversion and management measures for Cabrillo Port are inadequate to protect public safety.
- Lawmakers have expressed concern that the US Coast Guard and other federal, state and local response agencies do not have the resources to handle an LNG spill event.

For more information, visit www.CoastalAdvocates.com and www.EDCnet.org. CCPN is a California public benefit corporation, dedicated to the protection of the California coast through education, research, and empowerment of public citizens. EDC is a non-profit, public interest law firm representing CCPN and other organizations working to conserve and protect California's South and Central Coast.