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A Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal in the Santa Barbara Channel? Top Ten Reasons Why You Should Be Concerned!

A fact sheet prepared for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (www.SBCK.org) by the Environmental Defense Center, Santa Barbara, CA (www.EDCnet.org)

Texas-based NorthernStar Natural Gas Inc. proposes to convert a 30-year old offshore oil platform into a first-of-its-kind terminal to receive and process imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) offloaded from supertankers. Despite an array of significant environmental impacts associated with the proposal, they ironically call the project "Clearwater Port"!

1. The proposed LNG terminal would **industrialize the Channel** and pose **serious threats to public safety, air and water quality, marine life, coastal and ocean views, and the beauty of the South Coast**.
2. Platform Grace is a 30-year old oil production facility located approximately **10 miles off the Santa Barbara and Ventura coast**, and only **three miles from the Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary**. **Experts have expressed concern about the platform's structural integrity**.
3. LNG supertankers as large as aircraft carriers would enter the Channel 2-3 times per week, passing through the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the already crowded shipping lanes, and could pose a **serious danger to recreational and commercial vessels, whales, fish and other sea life** from risks of oil spills, explosions and massive cloud fires.
4. LNG is natural gas that has been super-cooled until it becomes a liquid, so large quantities can fit into a tanker. A fire or explosion on an LNG tanker could have devastating consequences, including "cloud fires" that extend for miles. This is why **LNG tankers and terminals are considered a prime target for terrorist attacks**.
5. The US Government Accountability Office found that **LNG terminals are prime terrorist targets** and that the **Coast Guard is inadequately prepared to protect the facilities or the public** in the event of a terrorist attack or serious accident.
6. LNG is a non-renewable fossil fuel. **LNG importation increases our dependence on foreign countries** for electricity and heating, similar to our dependence on foreign oil for transportation, and would **slow California's transition to renewable and domestically produced energy sources**.
7. Importing LNG from overseas to California could **generate up to 25 million tons per year of greenhouse gas emissions, equal to that of 3.5 million cars**.
8. **Use of LNG produces more greenhouse gas emissions than domestic gas** due to the tremendous energy required for liquefaction, transoceanic shipment and regasification. Researchers have found that **imported LNG approaches coal in overall greenhouse gas emissions**.
9. The proposed LNG project **would increase ozone, a major component of smog**, impairing human health, agriculture and vegetation.
10. According to California Lt. Governor John Garamendi, numerous factors indicate that **LNG imports are not needed**, including unused capacity in domestic natural gas pipelines, strong North American natural gas reserves, a decline in US demand for natural gas, and forthcoming regulations stemming from California's new law to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions.

Take Action: Your tax-deductible donations to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and EDC will help ensure that the proposed NorthernStar LNG project is independently reviewed, and complies with all applicable environmental and public safety laws. Visit Channelkeeper (www.SBCK.org) and EDC (www.EDCnet.org) on the web to make your contribution, and stay informed by signing up online to receive action alerts for upcoming hearings and events.

For more information, phone Channelkeeper at 805/563-3377, or EDC at 805/963-1622.