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GLOBAL WARMING AND LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG)

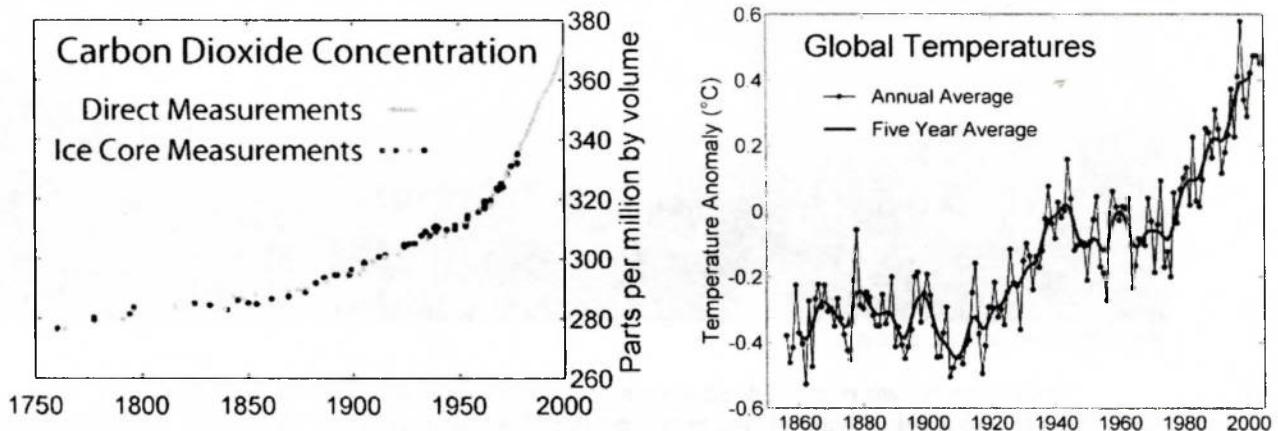
A fact sheet provided by the Environmental Defense Center (www.EDCnet.org) and the California Coastal Protection Network (www.CoastalAdvocates.com)



Global Warming is Real

The debate is over: the existence of global warming—caused at least in part by human emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) like carbon dioxide and methane—is no longer in question. Around the world, thousands of mainstream, peer-reviewed studies have reached this conclusion, including works by special research organizations such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

As carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere continues to rise, the only real debate remaining in the scientific community is just how bad the global impacts will be. Some experts warn that we may be approaching the “point of no return” - that the global average temperature rise that has already occurred because of human emissions will result in “runaway” warming as heat-reflecting polar ice sheets melt, and Arctic permafrost thaws and releases even more naturally occurring greenhouse gases such as methane. In any event, it is clear that we must act now to reverse this alarming trend.



Atmospheric CO₂ concentration (data from Keeling and Whorf, Oak Ridge National Laboratory 2004) and change in average global temperature (Jones and Moberg, *Journal of Climate* 16, 2003).

How Does LNG Affect Global Warming?

LNG is a fossil fuel, and its use, like that of coal or oil, will only exacerbate global warming. LNG results in increased emissions of both carbon dioxide and methane. In fact, importation and use of LNG results in GHG emissions 25% over and above those from domestic natural gas use due to the energy needed to liquefy gas produced overseas, transport it on supertankers over thousands of miles, and regasify it for consumption in the US. The Cabrillo Port LNG project proposed offshore Ventura and LA Counties would spew almost 25,000,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions *per year* into the earth's atmosphere—more than would be emitted over the entire lifetime of 400,000 cars!

Furthermore, the tremendous capital costs required to establish an LNG infrastructure (including the costs of constructing huge import terminals and supertankers), and the long term contracts gas distributors must enter into for LNG supplies could divert investment from clean renewable energy supplies, such as wind, solar, geothermal and biomass.

Global Warming Affects our Environment, Health, and Economy

Changes brought about by global warming have already been observed around the world, particularly in the Arctic, where the ice cap is retreating, permafrost is melting (no longer "permanent") and never-before seen Southern species like ticks and robins are appearing for the first time in history. Climatologists predict many more drastic changes worldwide, including: sea level rise and coastal erosion; more extreme weather events such as flooding, violent storms, heat waves and drought; increased intensity of hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons; and spreading of pests and noxious plants. These changes are bringing about significant ecosystem effects— displacement and even extinction of thousands of species are already occurring, and are expected to increase substantially. Humans, especially the poor, will likely suffer broad effects due to extreme weather, including changes in food and water availability, population displacement, and even widespread famine. Global warming will also likely cause significant economic impacts to our society, as intense storms and weather cause agricultural and economic losses, raising the price of commodities and basic resources like water, and escalating insurance rates in coastal- and storm-prone areas.

What Can We Do to Stop Global Warming?



Wind farm in Galicia, Spain

Quite simply, we must reduce emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. According to the Kyoto Protocol, we must reduce GHG emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2010. Fortunately, we can achieve this goal, by increasing conservation, energy efficiency and our use of renewable energy technology. California's first priority must be to *reduce* our reliance on fossil fuels.

The debate is over— global warming is an immediate threat, and we no longer have time to experiment with the future of our planet. The choice is clear: California and the rest of the world must turn away from a future fossil fuel dependent future, and choose to become a society fueled by truly clean, safe renewable sources of energy. California must say NO to LNG before it is too late.

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.