



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

February 8, 2011

Mr. David T. Matsuda
Maritime Administrator
Maritime Administration
US Department of Transportation
Southeast Federal Center
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE W22-318
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Application of Liberty Natural Gas for the LNG Deepwater Port Offshore of
Monmouth County, New Jersey Docket Number USCG -2010-0993

Dear Mr. Matsuda:

On September 28, 2010, Liberty Natural Gas, LLC (Liberty) submitted an application to the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) under the Deepwater Port Act (Act) to construct, own and operate a deepwater port. This deepwater port would be located approximately 16 miles off the coast of New Jersey to receive vessels transporting liquid natural gas (LNG) for regasification. As proposed, approximately 44.4 miles of offshore pipeline would be needed to transport natural gas from the port to the shore in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. On November 15, 2010, a copy of Liberty's license application was provided to New Jersey.

Under the Act, any coastal State that would be directly connected by pipeline to a proposed deepwater port shall be designated as an "adjacent coastal State." 33 U.S.C. § 1508(a)(1). New Jersey is such a State, as Liberty has proposed to transport natural gas to the shoreline of New Jersey. The Act prohibits MARAD from issuing a license without the approval of the Governor of each adjacent coastal State. 33 U.S.C. § 1508(b)(1). Accordingly, under my authority as Governor of the State of New Jersey, I hereby disapprove the issuance of a license to Liberty. This project would present unacceptable and substantial risks to the State's residents, natural resources, economy and security.

The proposed deepwater port and offshore pipeline lie east of thriving coastal communities that are home to many residents of the State as well as precious plant, fish, animal and avian species. This coastal area also supports recreational and commercial fishing, shellfisheries and tourism industries that are vital to the State. Marine waters in the proposed project area function as a critical migration corridor for both federally endangered marine

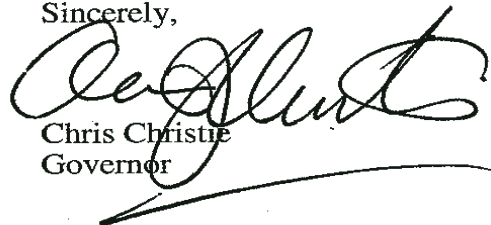
mammals and sea turtles. The proposed 44.4 mile long offshore pipeline and port structures will affect almost 6,000 acres of seafloor, adversely impacting seafloor habitat, aquatic life, and prime fishing grounds. The discharge of wastewater, regasification effluent, and stormwater would also harm our marine waters and the species that depend on a healthy environment. The environmental impacts could threaten the recent ocean water quality improvements the State has worked hard to achieve.

New Jersey has invested much time, energy and resources into encouraging renewable energy, a commitment that has made the State a national leader. This project could stifle investment in renewable energy technologies by increasing our reliance on foreign sources, which would undermine progress made by New Jersey and this nation to promote sustainable energy.

Finally, the Liberty project would also present significant security risks to our State through increased demands on the U.S. Coast Guard and our State Homeland Security personnel and first responders. The Liberty project would create a heightened risk in a densely developed region, including potential accidents or sabotage disrupting commerce in the Port of New York and New Jersey.

For all of these reasons, I hereby disapprove of the issuance of a license to Liberty to construct, own and operate a deepwater LNG port off the coast of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Christie", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Chris Christie
Governor

