



February 6, 2023

Dear Sir or Madam:

On November 2, 2022, shrimpers and fishermen from Cameron Parish sailed their boats to the Golden Nugget where the gas export industry was holding its LNG and Gas Summit and Exhibition. The shrimpers sailed to the summit as a group to deliver the message about the threat posed to their families and their livelihoods from the massive expansion of the gas export industry in Cameron and Calcasieu Parish. This expansion would put ten terminals in the southwestern part of Louisiana and an additional three terminals in southeast Louisiana. This is a radical transformation of the Louisiana coast. If successful, this construction and expansion will destroy the shrimping community in Cameron Parish and have serious consequences throughout the state.

We write this letter to you to urge you to use your authority to protect the shrimping industry in Louisiana. This industry is a priceless aspect of Louisiana culture as well as an economic engine in the state. This industry will be gone forever if you permit any more of the proposed facilities, all of which are huge companies based outside of Louisiana.

A report titled "Identifying Communities Associated with the Fishing Industry in Louisiana," prepared for the US. Department of Commerce and NOAA Fisheries, profiled the fishing community in Cameron Parish. The parish was described as an "ideal location for commercial fishing" due to the surrounding wetlands, biodiversity, and popular landmarks for outdoor recreation. Today, all of these aspects which made Cameron ideal for commercial fishing are facing an existential threat by the gas export buildout. The report highlights that the parish has depended on its fisheries for much of its history and fishing is a prominent part of local culture. The town of Cameron was noted as "one of the largest seafood producers in the state," with "extensive fishing infrastructure" and is seen as a place of "centralized fishing activities" for many participants residing in the adjacent towns of Creole and Hackberry. The historic and culturally significant commercial fishing industry in Cameron parish could be completely eliminated due to the gas export buildout.

Attached to this letter you will find a map depicting the threat posed by gas export terminals to our shrimpers. The shrimping and fishing grounds are threatened by construction and ship traffic, as seen by the facilities' location on the coast and along the Calcasieu River. Our access to the water is threatened by the destruction of boat launches (see the areas marked in X on the map).

There are at least six state and federal agencies with permitting authority for some aspect of the project. The problem is that each of your agencies is passing the buck, expecting that another agency will stand up and protect us.

Detailed below is broad information on the authority of each agency and how the authority extends to protecting the shrimping industry and coastal families.

Department of Energy (DOE)

The DOE is required to make decisions that are in the public interest. Shrimping is a crucial part of the Louisiana economy, and it is not in the public interest to promote the gas export industry at our expense.

The bulk of LNG exports (75%) are to nations with which we do not have a free trade agreement, and therefore require DOE authorization. The agency provides authorization if “it finds that the proposed exportation or importation will not be consistent with the public interest.” Interfering with shrimping is not in the public interest.

The agency may be looking at it from a macro-economic level and what is good for big business. Gas exports are not good for the local Louisiana economy. The shrimping industry is an integral part of the Louisiana economy, and countless restaurateurs, shrimpers, processors and seafood markets rely on our Gulf shrimp for their livelihood. The gas export industry is out of town corporations pulling in workers from other states.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

FERC is the leading federal agency responsible for issuing permits to LNG facilities and also to intrastate pipelines that serve the facilities. FERC’s permit review process provides the most holistic analysis of the proposed LNG terminal, including analysis on the project’s environmental impact.

The recent FERC vote to approve the Commonwealth permit is a strong and disappointing example of an agency not using its authority to protect us. Members of the agency expressed concerns, yet still voted for it. FERC Commissioners have publicly stated their commitment to ensuring that gas is affordable for Americans, yet their decision to greenlight gas export raises energy prices for all of us. This has been well documented in numerous reports.¹

Army Corps of Engineers

The Army Corps’ authority includes permitting under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Most recently, the Corps granted what is known as a “dredge and fill” permit to Driftwood LNG that would build at the north end of Calcasieu Lake. Dredging and filling is impacting the entire ecosystem of the area. Additional 404 permits will be required for other facilities. The Army Corps

¹ Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, <https://ieefa.org/resources/ieefa-us-booming-us-natural-gas-exports-fuel-high-prices>

should reject those permits. The proposed activities tear up our coast, increasing the vulnerability of homes in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes and damaging the habitat that our fisheries rely on. What's more, huge tankers will soon be plowing through the waters that we fish and shrimp in. This is unsustainable.

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR)

The LDNR authorizes coastal use permits. Cameron Parish experiences storms and hurricanes year after year. It is obvious that our wetlands and coastline should be protected from massive projects that require filling wetlands and building on our coast. Coast use permits should not be authorized.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)

The LDEQ has authority over air permitting, and is responsible for ensuring that permits satisfy the requirements of the Clean Air Act. The proposed facilities release toxic emissions and greenhouse gasses into the air. There are environmental justice considerations given the poverty rate in Cameron Parish. LDEQ also has the authority to issue Water Quality Certifications and wastewater discharge permits. The public trust doctrine requires that the agency protect the shrimpers from an industry that will destroy our homes and our livelihoods.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)

LDWF is responsible for advising FERC on the environmental review for a facility under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Specifically, LDWF is to provide advice on a given permit regarding the project's impact on fisheries resources. LDWF needs to stand up and do its job to ensure that the welfare of commercial fisheries is adequately represented in FERC's environmental reviews. The cumulative impacts of the entire gas export buildout on Cameron parish's fishing grounds must be taken into consideration.

One staffer from the department told a shrimper that they would assess the damage from gas export facilities after they are constructed. This will be far too late.

We appreciate your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Acy Cooper, Chairman
Louisiana Shrimp Task Force

Cameron Parish

LNG's adverse impacts to key fisheries

