

energymasterplan@bpu.state.nj.us

These comments are from the members of the Fishermens Dock Co-op Inc. of Point Pleasant beach. We have 16 members that own 15 vessels with an average length of 72 feet. Our boats directly employ 75 to 100 people year round, with dockside landings of 6 to 10 million dollars a year.

We are very concerned about the apparent attempt to industrialize the ocean for energy usage, whether that is by Windmills, LNG or oil drilling, all of these proposals will impact our fishermen and their ability to make a living from the ocean by feeding people. Our fishermen have fished the waters off the Jersey shore for more then fifty years, where are our rights when it comes to protecting our fishing heritage that has been handed down for many generations of fishing families?

The three proposed LNG projects are all located in prime historical fishing grounds, we cannot afford to be pushed off of them and be expected to survive. I am including an attachment to these comments that was published in the Asbury park press on 7/13/08 regarding our feeling on the LNG situation, please open it. Of those three projects the Exxon Mobil project, totally puts us out of business, there is no room for both of our industries in the same place, and since they need at least 1! 50 feet of water to operate it is us or them, we would be out of business within months of losing those grounds. The Atlantic sea island groups island in the Cholera Banks, is also on prime fishing grounds, but is also so absurd it shouldn't even be considered. The liberty project is the lesser evil of the three proposals but would still have substantial financial impact on our vessels. But as I say in my attachment, we do not need more foreign fossil fuels imported into out country, what we need is the Corzine administration to take the bull by the horns and embrace alternative energy sources, with Solar being the lead.

The current plan calling for 20 percent of our energy needs to be from alternative sources by 2020 is totally inadequate. Governor Corzine would be well advised to attempt to create a viable legacy by embracing Al Gore's call for a Manhattan Project for alternative energy that would create energy independence in a decade or so. The technology is there now with the rapid advancements in plastic nano solar panels leading the way. The BPU in NJ has taken the countries leading solar program and gutted it so that it is barely affordable to the average citizen. Most of the projects on the waiting list are now local government buildings and corporations. It is clear that the state does not want to break the energy companies monopoly on energy because it is such a cash cow to Trenton, but I believe that with a little creative thinking, the power companies can still control energy production while granting the average home owner a little bit of independence by creating his own energy. By having, a utility company, lets say, PSE+G , build a solar panel manufacturing plant [or a few] embracing the latest solar technology, the cost of solar power installations can be greatly reduced, this will make solar power cheaper by itself. Then using creative financing where a homeowner can borrow the money for installation against the energy he produces, solar power becomes affordable for all. Of course there would be many houses that solar power would not be effective on, because their is not enough southern exposure, or because of too many trees, but if half the houses

in the state could be solarized, along with all the buildings, we would have made an enormous contribution, not just to our states energy needs, but also to the reduction of greenhouse gases, besides showing the rest of the nation that New Jersey, isn't just full of corrupt gangsters and politicians, but of people who have a vision for our country's future and the courage to carry it out.

As for windmills in the ocean, we have serious concerns about the location of the windmills, and how much ocean grounds they would eventually encompass. LNG might look good compared to 100 square miles of windmills, of questionable, durability, lifespan, and cost effectiveness. We do not oppose new nuclear power, but it must be a closed system not dependent on any estuarine system for cooling. While we make that comment on nuclear power, the Oyster Creek plant should not be relicensed for 20 more years, it is too old, and the system kills too many marine creatures, but a 7 year compromise at which time the plant is then closed and dismantled or converted to a museum would be an acceptable compromise. Thank you for accepting these comments and please read the attachment.

James Lovgren
Fishermens Dock Co-op

As published in the Asbury Park Press:

Commentary
By James Lovgren

Food or Fuel, LNG facilities off the New Jersey coast

The world is in an energy crisis as growing demand for Oil and natural gas from the developing economies of Asia have pushed the price of these commodities to record levels. These record prices have also made alternative energy sources, such as Solar, more cost effective. Unfortunately the American public is being manipulated into believing that we can drill our way out of our energy problems by drilling off our coasts, and importing LNG [liquid natural gas] from politically unstable areas of the world, while ignoring the economic and environmental benefits of Solar power.

Presently three different companies are proposing various ways to supply liquid natural gas to the New Jersey/ New York market. All three of these proposals are sited in or near the Mud Hole, a twenty mile long underwater ravine stretching 12 to 30 miles off of the northern New Jersey coast. All three of these LNG facilities would require vast no fishing areas, around both the actual unloading facility and its 30 to 50 miles of pipeline. The commercial fishing industry cannot afford to lose such productive fishing grounds and still survive. This area is prime fishing grounds for Fluke, Black back Flounder, Whiting, Squid, Ling, Bluefish, Lobsters, Scallops, and many more species that pass through on their annual migrations. New Jersey residents should be proud to know that the two oldest fishing co-operatives in the country, are right here in Ocean and

Monmouth County. The Belford Seafood Co-op, and the Fishermen's Dock Co-op Inc, of Point Pleasant Beach have provided hundreds of millions of pounds of high protein fish to the people of the world for more than 50 years. The majority of that catch has come from the Mud Hole. Eighty percent of New Jersey's lobster fishery operates on the sides of the mud hole, and scallop vessels trawl the top edge of both sides. Our industry is already suffering from the overzealous attempt by the National Marine Fishery Service to create a petting zoo full of fish that no one can catch. Reduced quotas, and the confiscation of permits has severely impacted the commercial fishing industry's ability to survive. To have Big Oil come in and cavalierly industrialize our most important fishing grounds would be the last straw.

This truly is an us or them decision. Food, or Fuel. There's no denying that we need food, record high prices and food riots throughout the world underline the present food crisis. Conversely, without energy the world stops, and the record high prices for oil and gas underline the insatiable appetite humanity has for fuel. But do we really need LNG facilities off of New Jersey's beaches? There are presently three LNG unloading facilities off of the U.S. east coast, and they are operating at only 20 % of their capacity. There is still plenty of capacity for years of increased growth. Also, this liquid natural gas would be imported from overseas and requires much more energy to produce than our own natural gas. New Jersey has a few older power plants that need to be replaced or up graded in the near future, and LNG is certainly cleaner than coal, but do we need to import more fossil fuel into this country? We have one of the world's largest Gas fields right in the Appalachian mountain's. Why don't we tap that? Why keep sending our dollars and jobs overseas? According to the Energy Information Administration we exported over 500 million barrels of petroleum products last year, mostly refined gasoline and diesel fuel, when there's supposed to be a shortage. That's almost 1.4 million barrels a day. Why?

But the real question here is this; can we continue recklessly using fossil fuels in light of the undeniable evidence of the environmental catastrophe being created by global warming from greenhouse gases? I have seen first hand major shifts in fishery migrations that can only be explained by warming waters. Many plant and animal species will not be able to adapt to these changes. We are creating an environmental Armageddon. Fortunately we have the power to stop it. That power lies in the sun, the creator and caretaker of all life on earth. Solar power has come a long way in the last few years, with Nano-Solar technology vastly increasing its cost effectiveness. By utilizing Solar power we can help become energy independent of foreign fossil fuels, while reducing global warming. The biggest problem with solar power right now is we cannot produce panels fast enough to meet demand. So I am proposing a solar power initiative for the state of New Jersey. The plan would involve installing solar panels on every house, and building in the state within the next 25 years. To do this would require the construction of our own solar power manufacturing plant [or two]. Instead of our power companies building new fossil fuel burning power plants, give them tax incentives to build solar power manufacturing plants.

By doing this homeowners will see drastically reduced electric bills, [they might even be tempted not to move out of state], and new power plants won't have to be built. Tens of thousands of jobs would be created in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of these solar panels, and all of this by collecting free energy from the sun. So add it up, huge job creation, an economic stimulus that would drive New Jersey's economy for decades, while benefiting its long suffering tax payers with reduced electric bills, plus reduction of greenhouse gases, while keeping our dollars in the U.S. and our troops at home instead of fighting in the middle east for our so-called National interest. When you add up the price of foreign fossil fuels and our military commitments to protect it, plus the environmental harm caused by greenhouse gases, Solar energy is a bargain. But if New Jersey citizens do not put pressure on our legislators, and Governor, then we will continue to suffer for years from fossil fuel pollution, and the energy manipulations of big oil.