



February 4, 2016

Ms. Maya K. van Rossum
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007

Re: Delaware Riverkeeper Network Request for a review of FERC by the Government
Accountability Office

Dear Ms. Van Rossum:

I commend your championship of these longstanding issues with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Please include Pipeline Awareness Southern Oregon in Delaware Riverkeeper's request for a review of FERC by the Government Accountability Office. It is important to note that Oregon Senator Ron Wyden also sits on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; as a supporter of LNG terminals and methane pipelines in the Pacific Northwest, it is unclear as to whether Senator Wyden might support this appeal. I hope so.

Oregonians are currently besieged by several high profile and strongly opposed LNG export terminals and methane pipeline projects. The issues you outline in your correspondence reflect the experiences of many Oregonians opposed to and affected by the Jordan Cove LNG Energy Export Project and the Pacific Connector Fracked Methane Gas Pipeline and the Oregon LNG proposal. Jordan Cove and the Pacific Connector are proposed in Southern Oregon and the Oregon LNG project is proposed in the Northwest corner of the State.

Oregon LNG, the Jordan Cove LNG Export project and the Pacific Connector Fracked Gas Pipeline, will be disastrous for the environment, economy and people of Oregon. The environmental review of these projects by FERC has failed to fully examine and adequately recognize the severe environmental consequences of these projects. Requests of FERC to address issues such as the impacts of wildland fires, public and fire safety are routinely ignored and shelved.

For example, the deception based mitigation measures proposed to balance the impact of the Pacific Connector methane pipeline crossing more than 400 rivers, streams and creeks, along with the damage to Oregon forests, [including late successional reserves] threats to endangered wildlife and Oregon's scenic beauty make any approval, for any reason, insupportable. Yet, FERC has regarded this extensive 232-mile long construction project and its long-term consequences to Oregon's pristine natural environment as having a

minimal impact. Approval will be a blow to anyone who depends on the natural environment in Oregon in impacted areas for a livelihood, or is genuinely concerned about the risks to the welfare of future generations posed by climate change.

In regard to the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, approximately 630 private landowners will be unprotected against eminent domain by these private, for-profit corporations if a certificate of public convenience and necessity is issued. Jordan Cove is owned by Veresen, Inc., a private for-profit Canadian corporation which also co-owns the Pacific Connector Methane pipeline. Many of these landowners have been held hostage to the FERC permitting process for more than ten years as project applicants have switched from import projects to export projects and even now at the conclusion of the FERC environmental process have **no** sales contracts in place.

The NEPA violations surrounding these projects are simply too numerous to list; however, it appears FERC has a deeply ingrained culture of disregarding and disrespecting other review and permitting processes as a matter of course. How can it be that FERC is financed and funded by the very industry they are charged to oversee and regulate? This feels wrong. For example, FERC offers training seminars, delivered by FERC staff and industry consultants to help applicants successfully navigate the FERC process from project concept to post-construction monitoring. Yet the average citizen is expected to maneuver the maze of federal and state regulations associated with these very complex processes on their own, unaided. The very structure of FERC is illegitimately imbalanced in favor of the fossil fuel industry at the expense of individual citizens in the United States. Simply put, the deck is stacked and the system rigged against anyone outside of the fossil fuel and energy industry.

Thank you for allowing Oregon to participate in your call to action and for all of the work you do to protect our natural resources.

Sincerely,

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