



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Delaware Riverkeeper Network Responds to DRBC Announcement of Hearing on LNG Export Site**

June 12, 2019 the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) granted approval to Delaware River Partners for construction of the Gibbstown Logistics Center Dock 2 project despite strong opposition from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the public. During a truncated public review process that ended with DRBC approval just 4 business days after the public hearing where the agency, for the first time, notified the public that the proposed project was to support LNG exports of fracked gas brought from central Pennsylvania (the first project of its kind anywhere along the Delaware River), DRBC received significant public comment documenting the harms of the project and DRBC's failure to examine critical information regarding the proposal and its impacts. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network legally challenged the DRBC approval in a rehearing requested filed on July 11. On September 11 the DRBC Commissioners granted the Delaware Riverkeeper Network rehearing request which started the formal legal challenge brought by the organization against the DRBC approval.

Monday, March 2, 2020, the DRBC announced the date and time of the adjudicatory hearing being held as part of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's legal challenge to the DRBC approval of the Gibbstown LNG Export facility. As part of the public announcement the DRBC stated that the hearing would be open to the public on a first come first served basis in terms of seating and that DRBC would re-open the public record for additional written comments.

"This announcement is a stunning admission that the DRBC failed to provide a full or fair opportunity for public comment before approving the Gibbstown Logistics LNG export facility. If it had not been for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and our legal challenge this project would have sailed through, evading critical agency review and analysis and denying the opportunity the regulatory and review protections it is entitled to from the public servants that work at the DRBC," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. "We are confident that the Gibbstown LNG export facility application materials could not, and should not, support the approval given by the DRBC. It

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should not have been necessary for my organization to file a legal challenge and secure multiple detailed expert reports to challenge this ill-advised and misplaced agency approval.”

“The DRBC announcement continues to provide the public with an unclear picture of what is happening and the role they can play in standing against this dangerous project. By stating that the hearing is open to the public the DRBC is not being clear that this is a legal hearing and not one where the attending public will be given an opportunity to testify regarding their concerns. If DRBC had done its project review correctly from the get go we would not be in a situation where this dangerous and ill-advised project was continuing to advance through the regulatory review process and the public was, once again, being left at a disadvantage in terms of full and fair public participation,” said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

“While the DRBC is being confusing, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network is being clear – this is an opportunity for the public, between now and April 24, 2020, to be sure the Delaware River Basin Commission understands that the Gibbstown Logistics Center Dock 2 will inflict unacceptable damage on our River, communities and our environment and is setting an unacceptable precedent that the public will not stand for. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network will continue to put forth clear and factual information and scientific analysis that the public can use to get informed and comment. Information will be located on our website at [www.DelawareRiverkeeper.org](http://www.DelawareRiverkeeper.org),” added van Rossum.

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