

Help Stop FERC Shirking Its LNG Oversight Duty

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has abdicated its jurisdictional duties under the Natural Gas Act to regulate the siting, construction, operation and maintenance of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) small-scale inland export facilities.

Instead these facilities operate with basically no Federal oversight.

LNG trucks barrel down I-75 through Georgia past high schools, colleges, businesses, and homes, then on I-10 to Jacksonville for ships at least as far as Puerto Rico. At the ends of the Sabal Trail pipeline chain in Florida, trucks go out from half a dozen LNG export operations authorized by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Fossil Energy (FE). If any of those trucks wrecks, everyone should be evacuated half a mile downwind, according to federal standards, including high schools and hospitals. Very few local emergency responders know this and fewer have appropriate emergency plans.

Compounding the problem, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has authorized the transport of LNG freight by rail through densely populated areas, including 100,000 gallons a day from one inland LNG plant in Miami that began exporting LNG on February 5, 2016, to the Caribbean from Ports Miami and Everglades.

LNG is natural gas that has been cooled to -259 degrees

Fahrenheit. In liquid state, LNG has 600 times the energy of natural gas and occupies 1/600th the volume.

FE has has authorized LNG exports from deep water ports from Miami to Jacksonville, Florida, and beyond. LNG is loaded into 40-foot, 10,000-gallon ISO containers (giant thermos bottles) for truck or rail transport. Under the right conditions, a breach of an LNG container as small as 4 inches can result in catastrophic devastation and loss of life over a wide area.

Within 30 days from the date our goal has been achieved, our legal team in Washington, D.C. can file suit in Federal Court to get FERC to resume its jurisdictional duties under the Natural Gas Act, and to assure that all federal laws will be observed, particularly those in place to protect the public.

See www.wwals.net/issues/lng to contribute via Click & Pledge or Paypal or mail a check to: WWALS, P.O. Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632.

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS) is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity that advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

