

# What You Need to Know About Oregon LNG *continued from front page*

by Leucadia National Corporation, a private equity firm in New York, who now fully own it. They changed the name to Oregon LNG and proposed adding a very large pipeline which would run through Clatsop County, down through Washington and Yamhill Counties, across Marion and Clackamas Counties to Molalla.

That was the import part of the project with big storage tanks in Warrenton and big tankers coming into the Columbia River. At that time the promoters of the project were saying that North America was running out of natural gas and we absolutely need to be importing LNG or natural gas prices are going to spike. That was totally, absolutely wrong. The same people are now trying to sell us the idea that we have so much natural gas that we need to be liquefying it and exporting it all over the world. They made both those arguments within five years with equal passion and conviction.

The import part of the project faced really fierce opposition in Clatsop County and then equally fierce opposition along the pipeline route in communities like Yamhill, Gaston, Forest Grove, and Molalla. Farmers, timberland owners, and fisherman organized and teamed up with conservation groups like us. It was sort of unusual because those groups don't normally agree on anything, but we were all on the same page. People did an incredible job of creating political will to say no to LNG and defend their properties by really focusing on stopping the terminals and using the absurd

idea of running these pipeline projects through farms, through really steep and rugged territory and salmon bearing streams.

Oregon actually did say no to LNG. At that time in 07-08 there was a second competing project called Bradwood by Northwest Natural Gas about twenty-five miles further up the Columbia River. The state of Oregon formally rejected that proposal around 2011.

About that time Oregon LNG made the switch and decided they were going to export LNG. They rerouted the pipeline away from the contentious parts of the Willamette Valley and up through Columbia County and Vernonia, which brings us to today.

Now Oregon LNG is pushing for critical permits from state and federal agencies that they need to build the project and not surprisingly they are getting negative feedback because, after ten years, they have not been able to answer the fundamental questions about how this project would meet Oregon's laws. The reason they haven't answered them is because they can't meet Oregon's laws.

### VV: What has been Columbia Riverkeeper's involvement in opposing this project?

DS: We got involved in the project in 2005 by looking at both the Oregon LNG and Bradwood import facilities. At that time there were five proposals to import LNG in Oregon. There were two others on the Columbia that never went anywhere, one in Coos Bay and there were other

proposals in California. There was a huge coalition of groups that formed to try to stop LNG imports for a number of reasons. Some of the Small Woodlands groups got really organized and said, on property right grounds, this should be denied. The coalition continued to grow, from just the people who were directly impacted by the pipelines and the terminals, to include nearby local neighborhood groups, rate payer groups who said it didn't make fiscal sense, and others.

Our role was to help them organize, to help inform people and arm this unusual coalition of people with an understanding of the impacts of the project and who makes the decisions, because it's very confusing. There are about fifteen places where Oregon LNG needs to get critical approval and a "no" at any one of them means the project doesn't go forward.

We have a long history of working with local activists in Clatsop County where people were really concerned about the impacts on the area, a totally critical area for salmon restoration and recovery. That's obviously a huge concern for us and it's also a huge concern up here in the Nehalem Valley. What we try to do is help facilitate and work with different community groups.

You could say that Oregon LNG has already received that "no" answer in Clatsop County where the County Commissioners voted 5-0 against the project. But they don't like to take "no" for an answer.

### VV: How long have you personally been involved with Columbia Riverkeeper?

DS: I've been involved with Columbia Riverkeeper in some type of role since 2005 and aware of and working on LNG since 2004. I grew up in Oregon outside Oregon City and had just graduated from graduate school and was living in Grants Pass. It seemed to me that it was going to be an issue that brought people from very different backgrounds - people who were worried about fish habitat, people who were worried about timber values, and people that worried about energy independence. That's what first drew me into the work and going to these places where people don't always identify as environmentalists but they care about their neighborhood, they care about their farm, and they care about their rivers and streams, in a very

concrete and on-the-ground way.

### VV: What are the overall and local concerns about the project?

DS: The big overarching concern is that exporting LNG is a really bad idea for a bunch of different reasons. What this is going to do is dig up fracked gas in North America and ship it overseas to high priced markets, leaving a whole bunch of methane and pollution along the way - for what? For no real benefit for the people who are most impacted by the project in Oregon, by the terminal that would disrupt fishing access and the local economy, and by the pipeline that would cut through private landowners and impact public services in places like Vernonia. It doesn't add up. It's a bad deal for Oregon. Even if you're a big proponent of natural gas, and there are some right here in this area - I know there's an active gas drilling operation in Mist - the idea of exporting it seems to undercut the idea of energy independence.

At a regional level it's a decision about industrializing a really critical area of salmon habitat. There have been tens of millions of dollars spent to bring back salmon and keep up the salmon run for sport fisherman, for gill netting and commercial fishing, and for tribal fishing. All of these are important values that the region has prioritized and Oregon LNG absolutely flies in the face of that.

Some of the more local concerns are that it poses a very significant public safety risk and burden on people. In order to keep this project safe there is a fundamental conflict with other existing economic activities in the area of the terminal, namely fishing, crabbing, recreational uses, and tourism. As you move further down the pipeline there's a fundamental conflict between smaller timberland owners, farmers and fish habitat and all the work that has gone into these watersheds to keep them healthy.

At a very local level, if there's a problem with the pipeline and gas leaks out and catches fire it's going to have a big impact on the people who live nearby. The first responders in these rural communities are going to be asked to deal with a very large industrial facility. This pipeline carries non-odorized, high pressure, natural gas methane in huge volumes. To give you a sense of how

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**A** Use this notice if public comment will be taken at this meeting.

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**NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Vernonia Rural Fire Prot. Dist., Columbia, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, will be held at 555 E Bridge Street, Vernonia OR

The meeting will take place on March 10, 2015 at 6  a.m.  p.m.


The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after March 10, 2015 at 555 E Bridge St. Vernonia OR between the hours of 9  a.m.  p.m. and 3  a.m.  p.m. Mon - Thur.

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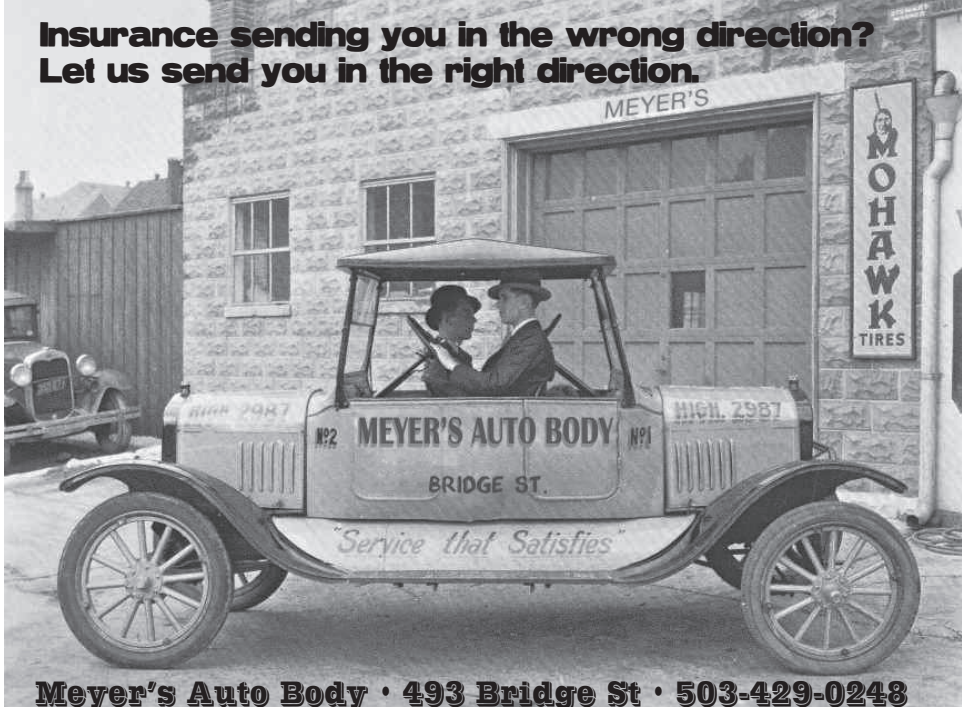
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