

LNG IS ECO-TERRORISM

FROM PAGE 2

CAROLYN DUNN

Eudora Welty said, in *The Eye of the Story*, that "Out of love you can speak with straight fury." And so we discover that "straight fury" is, indeed, our natural response to the multiple LNG siting applications that threaten our area. The devious liquid natural gas assault by power companies on community after community around the edges of the United States, backed by an Administration in Washington, D.C. which is as good as a club of petroleum industry CEOs, is no less than an outrage. "Straight fury" is the proper response to those who present us with lies about LNG plant "safety". The worst-case consequences of taking such a risk — which have been well researched — is beyond our direst imaginings. We love and try to protect our land, our clean air, our people, and our relative safety. Many of us will move if one or more LNG plants is allowed to build here. Many more will never come. In straight fury, proportional to the depth of our love for what we have carefully built and tended here, and for what we appreciate and care for which is given to us by nature — in straight fury we look an industry in the eye that should have withered in the shadow of other energy sources decades ago, and say "No".

ROBERT ADAMS

What should we do about LNG? The question is part of a larger one — what should we do with our home landscape, the one for which we are the appointed stewards? Most of us find that the best thing about Warrenton and Astoria is their location next to the River. From it we are allowed views that strengthen us and make us more considerate. We can't always explain how or why this happens, and we can't quantify it, but we are grateful. Even our silence can express that. To be thankful makes us conservative, in the old, true sense of that word. We want to be sure to protect a precious gift. There is currently a proposal, for example, to place art along the River Walk, an idea put forward by good people with good intentions. But is it a good idea, given the absence of any appropriately strict methods for soliciting and siting first quality public art? (One thinks with embarrassment of the wooden Indian head, and the cement park at 9th Street.) It should be difficult to win the right to build at the River's edge. For now however, unfortunately, the main requirement is just to bring money. Corporations wanting to develop LNG terminals bring lots of money, but they are bankrupt of more important qualifications — humility, civic concern, a love for the natural geography, and, yes, reverence for its creator.

KRIS DAEHLER

Who locally will benefit from an LNG terminal? I won't. It will offer jobs — we are told 40 to 60 of them. And apparently it will increase the tax base by 16% (or \$6 million) per year. That sounds really good: the Port Commissioners told me they believe Calpine will provide these benefits voluntarily — and safely — so their neighbors and friends will have prosperity and a strong community to look forward to. Astoria, wake up! How many remotely orchestrated capitalist schemes have you fallen into? Where has the fur trade gone? Where are the canneries and the mighty mills? What these industries have in common is a strong dependence on the extraction of what those unimaginative creeps call "natural resources." At one Port meeting Sue Skinner and some commissioners argued whether the natural gas will run out in 30 to 40 years or the industry's notion of 80 to 100. Suppose it was 100 years — who would have the nerve to call it sustainable? This is our local part in a global fight. Calpine's job right now is to convince us that their proposal (as well as three other



ROGER McKAY

LNG companies') is an isolated topic whose implications are limited to local economic growth. In fact, this project is part of perhaps the most colossal undertaking in history. Since the Industrial Revolution, an ethos that values the exploitation of the Earth's people, forests, animals and water for short-term personal gain has taken root throughout global culture. Perhaps the inherent selfishness of capitalism will be our redemption once resource wars (read: Iraq) and tangible symptoms of ecological collapse force us to reconsider the "benefits" of industrial "progress."

SUSAN SKINNER

The Oregon Department of Energy recently decided that the only "free market" (which, of course, is not free at all, but is controlled by the transnational corporations and the governments that do their bidding) can decide the need for liquefied natural gas refineries on the Columbia River, and that other considerations, aside from perhaps economic hardship which the LNG industry might impose on an area, are irrelevant. We, the "public," have been invited by the ODE to submit comments about our concerns regarding the economic impact of LNG on the Lower Columbia to help formulate "standards" that it can apply to LNG projects. Here is a "rule" for ODE's consideration: The revenue of all jobs and lives lost and displaced due to the presence and activity of LNG tankers, security forces, and LNG refineries must be factored into the "economic impact rule." Such calculations shall be made by an independent body, not allied with the petrochemical industry or the government agents it sponsors.

We are beginning to realize that converting the Lower Columbia River into the West Coast hub for the LNG economy will curtail our use of the river for livelihood and recreation, and that our freedom will be taken away from us by transnational corporations that have no interest in anything but making a fast buck off our backs. It's dawning on us that LNG refineries will mean windfall profits for electricity market manipulators wheeling and dealing like in the last reported Enron fiasco, only on steroids. U.S. Representative David Wu said March 15 in Clatskanie that the only way LNG can pencil out for the Columbia River is if it becomes an energy farm for California. Public relations managers for the various LNG corporations have been telling us lately that proper identification will be required of fishermen and others who hope to use the river. It looks like those who make surveillance reports, like RFID (radio frequency identification device, or "micro-chip") manufacturers, iris-scanners, weapons makers, and Jersey barriers, will be raking in the big LNG bucks as well. The occupation of the river by the LNG industry/security state spells the end of a way of life here. The intrusion of the crack cocaine of fossil fuels into our beautiful place is the beginning of the endless petrochemical wars in Warrenton and Bradwood. Many are talking of leaving if the war comes here. Perhaps others who are equally as talented and committed to community will move in to replace those who become refugees; perhaps it doesn't matter. Perhaps, as ODE *et al* has decided, it is best to "let the market decide." But let's not delude ourselves into believing we're playing on a "level playing field." And let's not pretend that the rape of the Columbia River is a "value-added" experience.

LIAM DUNNE

I don't have anything to say about LNG that will be any different than what has already been said by everyone. Based on my limited knowledge and awareness, I am against the proposed LNG facilities anywhere along the Columbia River. Apart from the official public relations information put out by the proponents of these facilities, I would like to hear from other people who know as little about it as I do who are for the idea, and I would like to know why they feel that way, *vis-à-vis* economic advantages to the area, increased tax base, employment, etc. The reasons I am against LNG are the obvious ones that have already been heard. Visually these facilities would look ghastly in our relatively pristine landscape. Environmentally this is a potential disaster that might be irreversible. I'm not wholly convinced about the potential terrorist threat, as dramatic as it may seem, although it is also a possible irreversible catastrophe. And I feel the safety precautions that might be taken in regards to the threat of terrorism will have a negative effect on the natural homegrown commerce we have developed on the river and in the local region. Initially I felt betrayed and disgusted at the behind-closed-doors way in which the lease was given to the LNG proponents, and although there has been a modicum of contrition on the part of our local officials toward their lack of faith in open public discourse, how am I to feel secure that this kind of policy won't happen again? Who among our elected officials will give us that kind of assurance? It has been a surprise to me that some of our local cultural and business boosters who appear to wear the mantle of caring for our historical and natural pristine legacy are in favor of the LNG project, and that some of these people are on the LNG payroll as liaison, advisors and promoters. But maybe it is no surprise to realize that the bottom-line motivation of much of this is the lure of what some believe to be the almighty dollar. Pardon my naïveté but I see no Almighty in the dollar.

SIGNS OF DEMOCRACY

I would like to make it perfectly clear that I am pro-LNG (liquefied natural gas) and have as much right to put up a sign in front of my house as the anti-LNG people have in putting their signs in front of their homes or businesses. I am writing this protest because some of you seem unable to comprehend this fact. My sign and some of the other pro signs in my neighborhood were stolen a few nights ago. This may come as a shock to some of you, but we are all entitled to our First Amendment rights, not just one side. It is called democracy and we all get to play. I hope whoever perpetrated this crime of theft and trespassing (he or she) reads this and is able to understand what a petty act they have committed.

~DIANE BEESTON

Diane Beeston is an Astoria artist.

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