

LNG: Not everyone is happy about it

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that the company is “ceasing development of its terminal and pipeline projects.”

Oregon LNG could not be reached for comment.

‘Not an act of God’

“This is not an act of God,” Laurie Caplan, co-chairwoman of Columbia Pacific Common Sense, said. “This happened because hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people refused to have this project foisted on us.”

Brett VandenHeuvel, the executive director of Columbia Riverkeeper, a Hood River-based environmental group that led the opposition, called Oregon LNG’s retreat a “huge victory after 10 years of incredible local activism.”

“Farmers and fishermen and estuary residents should be very proud of their success,” he said. “It’s been inspiring to me and many others across the Northwest.”

Asked whether local activism or financial considerations had more to do with Oregon LNG’s defeat, VandenHeuvel said both factors came into play.

“The project would’ve been built seven years ago without local activists standing up,” he said. “(Oregon LNG) had local approvals. They were marching forward, and people challenged those approvals. There (were) lawsuits. There was a change in the (county) commission. All of those things led to the demise.”

“Financially, it doesn’t make sense if you can’t make progress in 10 years,” he continued. “But the reason for those 10 years was local opposition.”

Not everyone is happy. Though fewer people turned out to support the project than came to oppose it at public meetings, they were vocal about the need to bring industry to the county and are disappointed that Oregon LNG’s attempt came to naught.

“I think it’s a disaster for Clatsop County, for the city of Warrenton, for all the taxing groups that work county-wide,” Dick Hellberg, a former Warrenton city commissioner, said.

The staff at Columbia Riverkeeper, he said, “don’t have any understanding of the history or the needs of the people in Clatsop County, other than the retired segment that didn’t

want anything to change. So they’re the winner, but, in the long term, the economy of Clatsop County is the loser.

“And all those people that are working on minimum wages and having to be supported by the food bank — they’re the losers, because we don’t have that many good-paying jobs or the tax base to do the things that we need to do in the county,” he said.

Environmental and safety concerns

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, said he was relieved that opponents of the project, who had raised environmental and safety concerns about industrial development at the mouth of the Columbia River, had prevailed.

“Local officials and members of the Clatsop County community raised valid concerns about this project from the very beginning,” Wyden said in a statement. “I shared the concerns that the Oregon LNG project would have had negative environmental and economic impacts, and I am relieved that local voices prevailed.”

Oregon LNG had proposed a terminal on the Skipanon Peninsula and an 87-mile pipeline to link with a natural gas connector in Washington state. The company wanted to export natural gas from western Canada and the Rocky Mountains to markets in Asia.

The company had argued that the project would be an economic boon for Warrenton and Clatsop County, providing jobs, as well as tax revenue to local governments.

But a coalition of residents, environmentalists and fishermen attacked the project as misguided and potentially dangerous. Activists had previously fought an LNG project at Bradwood Landing east of Astoria, which collapsed in 2010 after hitting financial and political roadblocks.

A draft environmental review of the Oregon LNG project by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission released in August found that environmental impacts could be reduced if the company took measures to minimize harm to fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. A final review was expected in June.

Host of obstacles

Yet the project was facing a host of obstacles.

Last year, the state Land Use Board of Appeals upheld Clatsop County’s 2013 decision to deny a permit for a portion of the pipeline. The county’s Board of Commissioners had initially approved the pipeline in 2010, but the vote was reversed when new commissioners were elected after a political backlash.

Oregon LNG was embroiled in a lawsuit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over an easement the Army Corps holds on the Skipanon Peninsula, where the company was leasing land from the Port of Astoria for the terminal.

And the split decision from the city’s hearings officer in March raised significant doubts about whether the terminal could move forward. The hearings officer found that the terminal would adversely impact fish habitat and fishing activity in the Lower Columbia River Estuary.

“Large fossil fuel export projects on the Columbia are doomed. They’ve repeatedly failed, from coal to oil to gas,” VandenHeuvel said. “People value the river for salmon and recreation and jobs that don’t destroy the river. So I think there’s a very bleak future for these giant export terminals.”

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Oregon, said the proposed LNG terminal was “not right for this community.”

“I join the many Clatsop County residents who are relieved to learn that it will not move forward,” Bonamici said in a statement. “I welcome productive conversations with Clatsop County leaders and residents about sustainable and safe ways to grow the region’s economy that capitalize on the region’s many strengths and create family wage jobs.”

Difficult votes

Oregon LNG’s withdrawal spares the Warrenton City Commission from having to weigh in publicly on an issue that has drawn bitter opposition on the North Coast. The Astoria City Council voted in September to oppose the project. Public opinion was likely more balanced in Warrenton, where the project could have had a more direct economic

benefit, but commissioners were facing difficult votes on the company’s appeal.

Oregon LNG publicly downplayed the importance of local approvals for the project, while at the same time seeking local permits to help satisfy multiple layers of regulatory requirements.

“Why would you apply to a city and contest that the city even had jurisdiction in the first place?” City Commissioner Henry Balensifer said.

Warrenton has welcomed big box stores and other business development, but Balensifer said the experience with Oregon LNG might prompt city commissioners to look more closely at land-use laws.

“There are things that we need to ensure so that we can actually plan and strategize what it is exactly that our community wants and what exactly is appropriate for our community to have in terms of industrial development on our waterfront,” he said.

Energy investors had been pursuing two separate liquefied natural gas projects on the Oregon Coast in a race to seize on a potentially lucrative export market.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in March denied applications for the Jordan Cove terminal and pipeline project at Coos Bay, finding that investors had not identified markets and that the public benefits of the pipeline did not outweigh the adverse effects on landowners.

Veresen Inc., based in Canada, and The Williams Companies in Oklahoma, are appealing the decision, citing new commitments from buyers in Asia. Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, has also urged the federal agency to reconsider.

Jordan Cove was further along in the regulatory process than Oregon LNG and did not attract the same intensity of local opposition.

Astonishment and relief

Awash in astonishment and relief, Johnson, Caplan and a small group of Oregon LNG opponents met for Mexican

OREGON LNG — A TIMELINE

- **2004:** Oregon LNG project begins. The company leases 96-acres on the Skipanon Peninsula from Port of Astoria.
- **2005:** Oregon LNG’s first backer, Calpine, files for bankruptcy.
- **2007:** Oregon LNG receives Federal Energy Regulatory Commission OK to begin National Environmental Policy Act prefilling.
- **2008:** Oregon LNG files formal federal application to build an LNG import terminal.
- **2010:** National Marine Fisheries Service refuses to initiate federal Endangered Species Act consultation. Clatsop County Board of Commissioners approve a segment of Oregon LNG’s pipeline. Columbia Riverkeeper and the Northwest Property Rights Coalition appeal approval to the Land Use Board of Appeals.
- **2011:** Newly elected Board of Commissioners reconsiders former board’s land use approval and reverses. Oregon LNG sues the county for reconsidering pipeline approval; Riverkeeper intervenes on the county’s side. The court agrees with the county and dismisses Oregon LNG’s lawsuit.
- **2012:** Oregon LNG notifies federal government of plans to modify its application to include liquefaction capacity. Oregon LNG amends application to become an LNG export terminal. Oregon LNG loses its appeal of Clatsop County’s right to vote on the pipeline.
- **2013:** Oregon Supreme Court rejects Oregon LNG’s appeal and affirms Clatsop

County’s right to reconsider the pipeline decision. Oregon LNG files its export application. County Board of Commissioners votes to deny the pipeline land use permits. Oregon LNG appeals the county’s decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

- **2014:** Oregon Court of Appeals reverses Land Use Board of Appeals and finds that county commissioners were not biased when they rejected pipeline.
- **2015:** Land Use Board of Appeals upholds Board of Commissioners 2013 vote against the pipeline. Draft environmental impact statement released. Two public hearings on Oregon LNG’s land use permits draw hundreds of opponents. A federal magistrate judge rules Oregon LNG did not prove the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers abandoned an easement on the proposed LNG site.
- **2016:** Oregon LNG pulls out of Army Corps litigation. Oregon LNG refiles case against Army Corps of Engineers. Oregon LNG’s final environmental review pushed back. Warrenton denies LNG terminal, OKs pipeline. Hearings officer concludes LNG project would impede fishing, impact fish.

Oregon LNG, Columbia Riverkeeper appeal Warrenton ruling. Hearings planned for May. Oregon LNG withdraws Warrenton project.

Sources: Oregon LNG, Columbia Riverkeeper and The Daily Astorian files

food and beer at Plaza Jalisco in Astoria a few hours after the news broke Friday.

The partners-in-protest swapped stories about anti-LNG demonstrations going back to 2004, relishing that the story finally culminated in what they believe is a happy ending.

“It is long overdue,” Caplan said after learning of the company’s departure. “Oregon LNG has drained energy, resources, time and talent out

of Clatsop County for way too long.”

Reflecting on their relentless effort to repel the project, the activists wondered why they had to spend a decade defending their coastal community in the first place. And, for all they knew, the fight could have continued for years.

“I knew we would win, because we were right,” Caplan said. “I just didn’t know when.”

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TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
MONDAY

MONDAY EVENING												APRIL 18	
A - Charter Astoria/Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach													
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Dancing With the Stars (N)				Castle "Backstabber" (N)		KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dancing With the Stars (N)				Castle "Backstabber" (N)		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	The Voice "Live Top 12 Performances" (N)				Blindspot "One Begets Technique" (N)		KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Supergirl "Better Angels" (SF) (N)		Scorpion "Chernobyl, Intentions" (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles "Granger, O." (N)		KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S.Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Supergirl "Better Angels" (SF) (N)		Scorpion "Chernobyl, Intentions" (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles "Granger, O." (N)		KIRO News	(35) S.Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at Seven	Inside Edition	The Voice "Live Top 12 Performances" (N)				Blindspot "One Begets Technique" (N)		KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(9) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Modern Family	Modern Family	Crazy Ex-Girlfriend (N)		Jane the Virgin "Chapter Forty" (N)		KGW News at 10	(35) Two and Half	(05) Two and Half	(35) King of Hill
10	KOPB	(10) This Old House	Business (N)		PBS NewsHour	Antiques Rd. "Omaha (Hour One)" (N)		Ore. Experience Ore. Experience		Antiques Rd. "Detroit, MI (Hour Two)" (N)		Independent Lens (N)	
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Gotham "Pinewood" (N)		Lucifer "#TeamLucifer" (N)		10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	Loves Ray 1/2
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV		FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Pique"		Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Scourage"
13	KCPQ	(13) Name Game	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Gotham "Pinewood" (N)		Lucifer "#TeamLucifer" (N)		Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	Modern Family
20	TBS	(20) American Dad	American Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad (N)	Family Guy		Family Guy	Full Frontal (N)	Conan	
22	KZJL	(22) Two and Half Men	Two and Half Men	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends
29	ESPN	(29) (5:00) MLB Baseball (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
30	ESPN2	(30) Hey Rookie	SportsCenter "Draft Room Simulation"	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Baseball Tonight (L)		NBA Tonight	Jalen & Jacoby (N)	NFL Live	
31	NICK	(31) NickyRickyDicky	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	Paradise Run		Full House 1/2		Full House 2/2		Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Liv and Maddie	Bunk'd	Friends Whenever	Girl Meets World	*** Another Cinderella Story '08	Selena Gomez.	(40) Liv Maddie		(05) K.C. Underc.	Bunk'd	Austin & Ally	Girl Meets World
34	FAM	(34) (5:30) *** The Blind Side (2009, Sport)	Tim McGraw, Quinton Aaron, Sandra Bullock.			*** Steel Magnolias (1989, Comedy/Drama)	Dolly Parton, Julia Roberts, Sally Field.			(40) FXM Presents	Runner Runner (2013, Action)	Ben Affleck, Justin Timberlake.	(50) FXM Presents
35	FAM	(35) Movie	(40) FXM Presents	*** Mr. and Mrs. Smith (2005, Action)	Angelina Jolie, Vince Vaughn, Brad Pitt.			(40) FXM Presents		Runner Runner (2013, Action)	Ben Affleck, Justin Timberlake.	(50) FXM Presents	
36	LIFE	(36) *** Sister Act (1992, Comedy)	Maggie Smith, Kathy Najimy, Whoopi Goldberg.			*** Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993, Comedy)	Kathy Najimy, James Coburn, Whoopi Goldberg.			The Preacher's Mistress (13)	Sarah Lancaster.		
38	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	MLS Soccer San Jose Earthquakes at Portland Timbers			UFC 171	Johnny Hendricks takes on Robbie Lawler.					UFC (N)	
39	F51	(39) Main Event "Cormier vs. Gustafsson"		Main Event "172: Jones vs. Teixeira"		Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports (N)	Best I Heard (N)		Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports	Fox Sports Live	Fox Sports Live
43	SPICE	(43) Cops	Jail	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
44	COM	(44) Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	South Park		South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N)	Nightly Show (N)
45	HIST	(45) Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People: Blood and Guts		Swamp People		Billion Dollar Wreck		(05) Billion Dollar Wreck	
46	A&E	(46) The First 48 "The Cover Up/ Bad Seed"		The First 48 "Tear Drops/ Almost Home"		The First 48		Bates Motel "The Vault" (N)		Damien "Abattoir" (N)		Bates Motel "The Vault"	
47	TLC	(47) Dateline NBC		Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Long Lost Family: Reunited (N)		Family "Am I Who I Think I Am?" (N)		Family "Why Did You Leave Me?" (N)		Lost Family "Am I Who I Think I Am?"	
48	DISC	(48) Street Outlaws "AbalBAM!"		Street Outlaws: New Orleans		Street Outlaws: Full Throttle (N)		Street Outlaws: New Orleans (N)		Misfit "Sue's Custom '56 Ford" (N)		Street Outlaws: New Orleans	
49	NGEO	(49) Wicked Tuna "Doubling Down"		Port Protection "Looking for Blood"		Wicked Tuna "Doubling Down"		Wicked Tuna "Riders in the Storm" (N)		Port Protection "Dark Days Coming" (N)		Wicked Tuna "Riders in the Storm"	
50	TNT	(50) (5:00) NBA Basketball Playoffs (L)				NBA Basketball Playoffs (L)				Inside the NBA		NBA Basketball Playoffs	
51	AMC	(51) (5:40) Call Saul	(45) Better Call Saul	"Inflatable"		(50) Better Call Saul	"Fifi"		(55) Better Call Saul	"Nailed"		Better Call Saul "Klick" (SF) (N)	
52	USA	(52) NCIS "Requiem"		Modern Family	Modern Family	WWV Monday Night Raw						(05) Chrisley	(35) Chrisley
53	FOOD	(53) Game "Redemption Tournament: Part 3"		Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Cupcake Wars (N)		Cake Masters "Monster Truck Cake" (N)		Chopped "Short Order Cooks"		Chopped "Teen Talent"	
54	HGTV	(54) Love It or List It		Love It or List It "Functioning for Four"		ListSis "The Wear and Tear Equation" (N)		HouseHunters (N)	HouseHunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	HouseHunters Off	HGTV Smart Home	
56	FX	(56) (5:30) World War Z (2013, Action)	Mireille Enos, Daniella Kertesz, Brad Pitt.			*** 47 Ronin (2013, Action)	HiroYuki Sanada, Tadanobu Asano, Keanu Reeves.			*** 47 Ronin (2013, Action)	HiroYuki Sanada, Keanu Reeves.		
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom	Amanpour
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly		Hannity		On the Record	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Filthy Rich Guide	Filthy Rich Guide	Filthy Rich Guide		Filthy Rich Guide	Filthy Rich Guide	Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRVA	(63) Dallas "Everything's Bigger in Dallas"		Southern Charm "HashtagNewCraig"		Southern Charm "Miss Domesticated"		Southern Charm "Hold Your Horses" (N)		Wives Dallas "Mad As a Hatter" (N)		WatchWhat (N)	Southern Charm
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) None But the Lonely Heart		**** Spiral Staircase (46)	Dorothy Mcguire.	**** Pinky (1949)	Drama) Ethel Barrymore, William Lundigan, Jeanne Crain.		**** Kind Lady (51, Cri)	Maurice Evans, Ethel Barrymore.			
65	SYFY	(65) (4:00) Abduction	**** G.I. Joe: Retaliation (2013, Action)	Dwayne Johnson, Adrienne Palicki, Channing Tatum.		12 Monk. "Year of the Monkey" (SP) (N)		Hunters "Messages" (N)		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Bitten "Shock the System" (N)	
162	RFD	(162) American Rancher	Red Steagall	Horse Master	Inside Reining	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America "Live"		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase	

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