

September 28, 2023

**Re: Hydrogen-ready LNG is a dangerous distraction**

Secretary Granholm,

The emergence of the US as the world's leading LNG exporter undermines the Biden Administration's commitment to global climate leadership, domestic climate goals, and environmental justice. The runaway growth of LNG export infrastructure is expanding and worsening fossil fuel sacrifice zones and putting a 1.5 degree world out of reach. The Department of Energy (DOE) must protect communities and our climate against industry efforts to expedite and greenwash the buildout of LNG exports.

When the Group of Seven (G7) met in May, it opened a dangerous new front in the industry-led campaign to greenwash LNG. The [final communique](#) alleged that new LNG infrastructure could avoid carbon lock-in effects "*...by ensuring that projects are integrated into national strategies for the development of low-carbon and renewable hydrogen.*" **This commitment to so-called "hydrogen ready LNG" is a dangerous distraction that the DOE should decline to support in any form.**

The biggest risk of federal hydrogen investments is that they will prolong the life of fossil fuel assets while locking-in, or even increasing, our unsustainably high level of emissions. This is undeniably true of hydrogen-ready LNG. The term itself is a misnomer, as even proposed 'hydrogen ready' terminals would require significant and expensive repurposing to handle either liquid hydrogen or ammonia. [Both](#) liquid hydrogen and ammonia have different temperature, pressure, safety, and infrastructure material requirements than LNG, and even once transported to a terminal, would require extensive additional steps to convert and transport the hydrogen to its destination consumer.

Billions of federal dollars are at the DOE's disposal for hydrogen investments, including \$8 billion under the hydrogen hub program. It is deeply concerning that the DOE publicly declared in October 2022 that hydrogen liquefaction and exports were eligible ["connective infrastructure"](#) under the program. It is equally concerning that some of the largest fossil fuel corporations in the country are among the current finalists — including LNG producers with explicit ambitions to pair hydrogen and LNG exports.

The Gulf Coast is once again ground zero for fossil fuel projects that endanger public health and community wellbeing. Semptra Infrastructure is a partner in multiple finalist hub proposals and intends to ["aggressively explore"](#) how to connect hydrogen exports with their LNG terminals in Port Arthur, TX and Cameron, LA. The leading US LNG exporter, [Cheniere](#), has separately expressed interest in hydrogen exports, specifically naming its ability to utilize LNG market access and infrastructure. These LNG majors must not receive social license or subsidies from the DOE for their greenwashing bait-and switch.

Every dollar counts when it comes to government investment to tackle climate change, and DOE cannot afford to overlook the risks of misspent billions in the Regional Clean Hydrogen

Hubs and other programs. Fossil fuel interests, eager to co-opt clean hydrogen funding and subsidize the lock-in of decades of expanded LNG production, must receive no help from taxpayers.

Respectfully,

350 Bay Area Action

350.org

Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action

Alliance for Affordable Energy

Bold Alliance

Businesses for a Livable Climate

Call to Action Colorado

CatholicNetwork US

Center for International Environmental Law

Center for Oil and Gas Organizing

Chispa LCV

Climate Investigations Center

Climate Justice Alliance

Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate

Community for Sustainable Energy

Earth Action, Inc.

Eco-Justice Collaborative

Food & Water Watch

For a Better Bayou

Friends of the Earth US

Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance

Green House Connection Center

Healthy Gulf

Indivisible Ambassadors

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group

Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety, & Environment

League of Conservation Voters

Littleton Business Alliance

Louisiana Bucket Brigade

Mayfair Park Association Board

Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries

Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association

North Range Concerned Citizens

Oil Change International

Our Sacred Earth

Private Equity Stakeholder Project

Public Citizen

RapidShift Network

Rise to Thrive

Save the Environmental Protection Agency

Science and Environmental Health Network

Sierra Club

Southwest Organization for Sustainability

SouthWings

Spirit of the Sun

Sunrise New Orleans

System Change Not Climate Change

Texas Campaign for the Environment

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Unite North Metro Denver

Wall of Women

Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate

Womxn from the Mountain

Working for Racial Equity

Zero Hour