



April 1, 2015

## **NYC Council Public Hearing April 1, 2015 NYC Council Resolution 0549-2015**

The League of Women Voters of New York State and the League of Women Voters of New York City strongly support New York City Council's Resolution 0549-2015 calling on Governor Andrew Cuomo to veto the application by Liberty Natural Gas for Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas Deepwater Port. In September 2012 this application was made, yet the financial status of Liberty Natural Gas and its owners and their identity remains incomplete. The public has the right to know this information to evaluate whether the company can support such a large investment to construct and operate the port, pipeline, two Liquid Natural Gas regasification vessels, staff, offices, etc. and whether it carries sufficient insurance or on-hand cash reserves in case of accidents or malfunctions.

Further, the public should have access to a Port Operations Plan to demonstrate navigability of the two almost 1000 ft. long Liquid Natural Gas Regasification Vessels among planned windmills for the same area of the ocean and, at all times, without significantly interfering with commerce.

The Plan should also address their ability to operate under severe weather conditions.

Before approving or disapproving this application, we have requested the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) to adopt its proposed policy to require a separate application for an import port with an independent Environmental Impact Statement if the owners of an import port wish to switch it to an export port.

The security and safety concerns of a liquid natural gas (LNG) port outside the Port of New York and New Jersey are serious:

- LNG tankers have been listed as potential terrorist targets by the Department of Homeland Security since 2003;

- LNG is highly flammable - if ignited, it can kill people and damage steel; and
- In the Independent Risk Assessment Phase I of the draft environmental impact statement, a large break in the storage tanks can be caused by a vessel moving at standard speeds but inadvertently strikes a Liquid Natural Gas Regasification Vessel calling on the Deepwater Port or by an intentional vessel hit.

The result could be twofold:

1. The LNG would float on top of the water and a pool of LNG would form. If Ignited, the fire could kill or burn the 156 crewmembers and damage the Liquid Natural Gas Regasification Vessel or those on the ship that strikes.
2. If the pool of LNG is not ignited, a vapor cloud would form and could spread rapidly, including to a second Liquid Natural Gas Regasification Vessel at the other buoy or into the Ambrose to Nantucket Traffic Lane (2.2 nautical miles from the Port) depending on the wind direction. If the cloud were ignited, the fire would flash back to the source of the spill, likely causing death or serious burns to all individuals it encounters either aboard the LNG regasification vessel or aboard nearby vessels.

Other forms of terrorist scenarios such as acts of war, i.e., hijacking, attacks by planes, torpedoes, missiles, drones, pre-placed explosives, etc. are not discussed in the Independent Risk Assessment Phase I and we strongly recommend they be considered with a risk assessment and appropriate response in Phase II.

The League of Women Voters of New York State, joined by the League of Women Voters of New York City, ask council members to pass Res 0549-2015 calling on Governor Andrew Cuomo to veto the application by Liberty Natural Gas for Port Ambrose LNG Deepwater Port.