

Canadian Embassy



Ambassade du Canada

May 17, 2013

Mr. Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Mr. Wellinghoff,

I am writing in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) March 2013 release of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on the Downeast LNG Project. The Government of Canada is committed to protecting the area including Head Harbour Passage and Passamaquoddy Bay, widely recognized as a unique and highly productive marine ecosystem.

Canada continues to have serious concerns with the proposal to construct an LNG terminal on the Maine side of Passamaquoddy Bay. These concerns relate to the environmental, navigational and safety risks as well as the adverse economic consequences arising from the passage of LNG tankers through Head Harbour Passage, New Brunswick, which the Government of Canada opposes.

The SEIS notes that co-ordination with the Government of Canada will be required to enable the safe and secure movement of LNG tankers through Canadian waters. As was reiterated in our July 7, 2009, letter to the FERC, the waters of Head Harbour Passage are internal waters of Canada by virtue of historic title and are therefore subject to the control and regulation of the Government of Canada. Given that LNG vessels would need to transit through Head Harbour Passage as well as the New Brunswick side of Passamaquoddy Bay, our position remains that this proposal cannot proceed. Canada will not cooperate in any coordination planning with U.S. authorities; nor will our Government curtail the use of Head Harbour Passage and Passamaquoddy Bay in order to accommodate the incursion of LNG tankers.

Canada and the United States share the closest and most integrated bilateral relationship in the world and have an extensive history of cooperation on energy and other transboundary issues. I look forward to working with you on further strengthening this important relationship in a way that considers the concerns and needs of both our countries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Doer'.

Gary Doer
Ambassador