



Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Press Conference

Monday, October 22nd, 9:30 AM

Statement of Kira Redmond:

Welcome and thank you for coming to this press conference.

Today, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is announcing its decision to undertake the review of the Northernstar LNG Terminal proposed for Platform Grace - just 10 miles offshore and close to the boundary of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

The Santa Barbara Channel is a very special place. And we know all too well what can happen when things go wrong, as they did in 1969 when Platform A blew out, leaving an 800 square mile oil spill that threatened our beaches, our wildlife, and our way of life.

Now, almost 40 years later, the Channel is being targeted for oil and gas industrialization yet again. Houston-based Northern Star Natural Gas wants to build a Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal by converting Platform Grace, an active oil-drilling platform, to an LNG berthing and regasification facility.

Contrary to what many people think, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is **NOT** like the natural gas that comes out of your stove. In addition to environmental impacts, many people are only starting to understand the significant safety risks that exist when natural gas is super-cooled into LNG. It is during the transition back from that forced *liquid* state into its natural *gaseous* state that the greatest risk for a catastrophic accident occurs. This is one of the reasons that the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently concluded that LNG terminals are ripe terrorist targets and that the US Coast Guard is inadequately prepared to protect them or the public in the event of a terrorist attack or serious accident.

Some people mistakenly assume that if you put an LNG terminal offshore, the environmental impacts disappear. The recently defeated BHP Billiton project demonstrated that that is clearly not the case; that project posed over 20 significant and unavoidable impacts, including 200 tons of smog producing pollutants per year - a fact that the company desperately tried to hide from the public. Had it not been for a non-profit organization who hired EDC to review the BHP Environmental Impact Report, many of these impacts would have underreported or not reported at all.

We view the placement of an LNG terminal in the Channel to be a significant and potentially devastating development for the Channel's long-term future.

With the potential for this project to receive its first approvals as early as June 2008, we feel that it is

imperative that the Northernstar LNG Terminal proposal be thoroughly reviewed and analyzed.

As an organization devoted to the restoration and the protection of the Channel, we feel it is our responsibility to the communities we serve to inform them of this project, to ensure that the project meets all applicable environmental laws, and to demand that safer alternatives with fewer impacts are carefully considered before any approvals are granted.

In taking this project on, we looked for the best possible legal team to coordinate the review. Luckily, that team is right here in Santa Barbara: the Environmental Defense Center. There is no other non-profit public interest law firm in the state, and perhaps the nation, that is as well versed on the issue of Liquefied Natural Gas. Their expertise will enable Channelkeeper to conduct a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation of the Northernstar LNG terminal proposal and the long term impacts it poses for the Channel we work to protect every day.

I will now turn it over to Linda Krop, the chief counsel for EDC who will discuss the Northernstar proposal and its potential impacts on the Santa Barbara Channel.

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