

# NEWS & VIEWS

## Supply side says to build LNG facility

By Marlene Z. Asselta  
Special to the Times

Thousands of miles of natural gas pipelines criss-cross the U.S. landscape, providing energy to millions of Americans each and every day. When heating your home or business in the winter is as simple as pushing up the thermostat, the pipelines and infrastructure that deliver that heat seem unimportant to the average individual.

But what happens when that supply is not so readily available? What happens when those pipelines are empty? Rather than waiting for this to happen, the Southern New Jersey Development Council is addressing the issue by actively supporting BP's plans to build a liquefied natural gas terminal here in South Jersey.



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Known as Crown Landing, this facility in Logan Township will bring in natural gas that has been cooled to a liquid and then turn it back into a gaseous state so that homes, electricity plants and industry in the region have access to a reliable supply. Natural gas is the cleanest source of affordable energy available to us today. People and businesses in both the public and private sectors need to support the completion of this worthwhile project for New Jersey.

A simple look at America's natural gas infrastructure immediately shows the problem posed to our region. New Jersey's natural gas supply comes from the Gulf Coast, traveling through pipelines that service cities all across the eastern and central United States. As the gas is pushed through the pipelines, utility companies siphon off amounts according to their needs.

For obvious reasons, natural gas consumption is highest during the winter months. Supply is unable to meet demand during these periods, forcing gas delivery companies to build inventory during off-

peak periods. In other words, the system is always preparing for peak demand, placing constant strain on our natural gas pipelines.

It is not unthinkable that New Jersey gas utility companies, located at the end of the nation's pipelines, will be unable to stock the necessary supplies to meet peak demand. Adding to this pressure is the recent series of hurricanes that have halted some natural gas production and shut down energy transportation infrastructure in the Gulf region.

We have yet to find a reliable energy source that will have zero negative impact on our environment — but that does not mean we should stop looking. Despite the substantial advances in solar technology and wind power, reliable and affordable renewable energy still eludes us. While, ultimately, the long-term future of energy is in renewables, the immediate future of energy is in natural gas.

The effects of burning coal and oil to produce energy have taken too much of a toll on our environment. Natural gas emits substantially less carbon dioxide, one of the principal greenhouse gases, than coal and oil. According to [www.naturalgas.org](http://www.naturalgas.org), a Web site sponsored by the Natural Gas Supply Association, burning natural gas to produce energy "emits almost 30 percent less carbon dioxide than oil, and just under 45 percent less carbon dioxide than coal."

The point is, natural gas is an environmentally suitable alternative to oil as we continue to perfect the future of renewable energy.

The Crown Landing LNG facility is expected to be the most modern facility of its type in the United States. Technical and safety standards, as required by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), along with several other federal and state agencies', will be met. Construction can begin only when all FERC and state approvals are in place.

The Southern New Jersey Development Council will continue to work with our partners in the South Jersey region to ensure this project becomes a real solution to our growing energy problems. This, in and of itself, is not the solution to New Jersey's energy woes, but rather another piece of the puzzle to improve our region's ability to provide for its residents.

Marlene Z. Asselta is the president of the Southern New Jersey Development Council, based in Turnersville.



Artist's conception of LNG dock and plant.



## ***Supply Side Says to Build LNG Facility***

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But what happens when that supply is not so readily available? What happens when those pipelines are empty? Rather than waiting for this to happen, the **Southern New Jersey Development Council** is addressing the issue by actively supporting BP America's plans to build a Liquefied Natural Gas terminal here in South Jersey.

Known as Crown Landing, this facility will bring in natural gas that has been cooled to a liquid and then regasify it so that homes, electricity plants and industry in the region have access to a reliable supply. Natural gas is the cleanest source of affordable energy available to us today and people and businesses in both the public and private sectors need to support the completion of this worthwhile project for New Jersey.

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The effects of burning coal and oil to produce energy has taken too much of a toll on our environment. Natural gas emits substantially less carbon dioxide, one of the principle greenhouse gases, than coal and oil, making power generation more environmentally friendly in the long term. According to [www.naturalgas.org](http://www.naturalgas.org), a website sponsored by the Natural Gas Supply Association for the education of students, teachers, industry, media and government, burning natural gas to produce energy “emits almost 30 percent less carbon dioxide than oil, and just under 45 percent less carbon dioxide than coal.” Point being, natural gas is an environmentally suitable alternative to oil as we continue to perfect the future of renewable energy.

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