



January 5, 2015

Mr. Roddy Bachman, Commandant
Deepwater Ports Standards Division
U.S. Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20593-7509

RE: Docket # USCG-2013-0363

Dear Mr. Bachman,

As a business economic development organization comprised of over 300 mid to large size businesses, the Southern New Jersey Development Council (SNJDC) and its members understand the impact of energy prices on economic development and the importance of supporting infrastructure investment.

We believe several factors point to the need for new natural gas supply infrastructure in New Jersey. There is a growing reliance on natural gas for electric generation as illustrated by two South Jersey projects. New generation projects, such as the West Deptford Energy Station Project, a 738-MW natural gas-fired combined cycle facility, are using natural gas to generate electricity. Old electric generation facilities, such as the B.L. England Generating Station in Marmora, are converting from coal-fired to natural gas to generate electricity.

In addition to electricity demands rebounding after the Great Recession, growing "peak" electric demands require adequate natural gas capacity. The "2014 Polar Vortex" points to a stress condition in the energy market. As the lengthy cold weather conditions set in, existing pipelines reached capacity and the resulting volatility in the market caused a price spike, entirely absorbed by consumers. These conditions will occur again unless natural gas transmission capacity is increased.

We are pleased to learn the approximately \$600 million Port Ambrose Project will require no ratepayer or taxpayer subsidies, will create over 800 union construction jobs and could utilize several fabrication and staging areas in New Jersey. We also appreciate that the technology used in the project is state-of-the-art, designed to meet the lowest air and water impacts, and has successfully operated safely in other US and international locations.

Through private sector infrastructure investments such as the Port Ambrose Project, reliable and adequate natural gas capacity will reduce and stabilize natural gas prices and will mean lower energy costs in New Jersey, which has some of the most expensive electricity prices in the United States. Stable energy costs help business and industry plan for expansion and create economic development.

For these reasons we support the Deepwater Port License Application. Thank you for the opportunity to share the SNJDC's opinion on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marlene Z. Asselta".

Marlene Z. Asselta, President
Southern New Jersey Development Council