



# National Association of Charterboat Operators

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Virginia Charter Boat Assn.  
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June 12, 2006

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First St., NE.  
Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Proposed Sparrows Point LNG facility

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Association of Charterboat Operators (NACO) is a national association representing over 3200 charterboat owners and operators across the United States. We represent over 270 members in Maryland. We respectfully provide the following comments regarding the proposed Sparrows Point LNG facility.

NACO fully supports the U.S. effort to become energy independent by developing and implementing new and alternative forms of energy. However, we are concerned about how some of these efforts seem to completely disregard harmful social and economic affects. The Sparrows Point proposed LNG facility is such a concern. While we support the safe and increasing use of LNG to help reduce the ever-increasing costs and dependence on conventional hydrocarbon fuels, we are extremely concerned about the increasing trend to expose our natural marine resources and human population to serious and unsecured risks. The proposed Sparrows Point facility creates serious potential risks, such as navigational issues when traveling through the narrow Chesapeake Bay and when traveling under the twin Chesapeake Bay bridges.

Whenever an LNG transport ship will transit the Chesapeake Bay, we are concerned about several issues. First, since the security of the LNG ship and its cargo is of paramount importance we know there will be an enormous restricted area around the ship that will require all vessels to stay out of that security area. This activity will also require many escort vessels to ensure the safe and secure transit. This will greatly disrupt the maritime traffic throughout the Chesapeake Bay area as the many vessels both commercial and recreational who use the bay will have to give way to the ship and its entourage resulting in much disruption of activities. This will cause serious negative effects to the quality of life of all users of this system. In the case of charterboat operations, this could cause serious problems, which would result in social and economic harm, which would be unrecoverable. We question whether any economic impact study has been conducted listing the potential negative economic impact to the local fishing communities of the Chesapeake Bay. Next, we are concerned about the secure area around the ship and the disruption to the automobile traffic on the twin bridges under which the ship will travel. This impact is also questioned by the lack of an economic impact study. We also have a serious concern for any potential terrorists attack on any LNG ships and/or the proposed facility and the resulting harm to the public and environment. Should a serious incident occur whether by terrorists or simply by accident we suggest that the negative social and economic impact could be of such magnitude that the area

affected would be years in recovery and there could be some charterboat and other operations that would never recover thus losing historic local fishing community activity.

We are concerned that there has not been a proper NEPA assessment of any potential social and economic impacts to the residents and natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay system with all of the required analysis of the impacts to the various fishery and human resources. We encourage such a NEPA study prior to any decision regarding this proposed facility.

NACO on behalf of our members is totally opposed to locating any such facility in the area of the Chesapeake Bay at Sparrows Point. We have strong concerns for the safety of the public who live in and around the Chesapeake Bay and those people who use the Bay system for commercial and recreational activity. We reiterate our serious concern for the security of the Bay system due to the restrictive resources and massive job of all government agencies tasked with the burden of providing a safe transit for the LNG ships to and from the facility along with the facility itself.

We respectfully request a speedy response to our concerns.

Thank you,

Captain Robert F. Zales, II  
President

Cc: file  
Maryland Charterboat Association