C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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February 20, 2006

Chairman Joseph T. Kelliher
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Offices of the Commissioners
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Kelliher;

It has come to my attention that AES Corporation has announced plans to build a liquefied natural gas facility in Dundalk, Maryland. Although I understand this proposal is still in its initial stages, I have serious concerns about siting the LNG facility at Sparrows Point, and believe it is not an appropriate place for this project. I am asking that you deny this proposal.

The Department of Transportation sets siting standards for onshore LNG facilities. These include consideration of the existing and projected population and demographic characteristics of the location; existing and proposed land use near the location; medical law enforcement; fire prevention capabilities near the location that can cope with a risk caused by the facility; and the need to encourage remote siting.

Given these siting guidelines, I have numerous concerns with locating the LNG facility near Dundalk. First, the proposed location would be less than two miles from the heavily populated residential communities of Turner's Station, Edgemere and Dundalk. If there is an accident at the LNG site or on one of the tankers that bring LNG to the terminal, area residents could be negatively impacted. The LNG site could also become a target for terrorists, and would unduly put residents in the surrounding area at risk.

An October 12, 2005 report by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service entitled "Liquefied Natural Gas Infrastructure Security: Issues for Congress" cautioned that "potentially catastrophic events could arise from a serious accident or attack on such facilities, such as pool or vapor cloud fires."

The Coast Guard is already charged with the responsibility of protecting the safety of the Bay Bridge, the Port of Baltimore, and the nearby LNG facility at Cove Point in Calvert

County. Putting another LNG facility in the area would stretch the Coast Guard's surveillance capacity to its limit, reducing the overall security in the entire bay area.

Dundalk, Turner's Station and Edgemere are communities in the process of a strong revitalization effort. As a former County Executive, we invested over $130 million dollars to help revitalize this area. Siting an LNG facility here would hinder its progress and would not be a welcome addition to the overall environment of the surrounding communities.

In addition to health and safety concerns expressed by the community, the placement of an LNG facility at Sparrow's Point could ruin the residents' quality of life. For years, area residents have enjoyed the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay and the Baltimore Harbor on their boats. Recreational boating is popular in this area. The security needed to keep an LNG facility and its tankers safe could ruin that.

Please consider these points as you move forward in the FERC review process and deny the AES Corporation request for an LNG facility in Sparrow's Point, Maryland.

Sincerely,

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress