



Via: FERC eComment System

January 15, 2014

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Jordan Cove Liquefaction and Pacific Connector Pipeline Projects (Docket Numbers CP13-483-000 and CP13-492-000)

Dear Commissioners:

Western Energy Alliance submits the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Jordan Cove Liquefaction and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline projects. We support the development of both projects, which would provide thousands of construction and permanent jobs and economic benefits in both Oregon and the western states that produce natural gas. We encourage the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to proceed with the applications for these two projects.

The Alliance represents over 480 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. We represent independent companies, the majority of which are small businesses with an average of fifteen employees. Some of the natural gas produced by our member companies is transported to the West Coast through the Ruby Pipeline, which receives natural gas from Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. Current and future production in these and other western states can provide a reliable source of natural gas to send to Jordan Cove for many decades to come.

As stated in the DEIS, both projects were extensively evaluated with respect to air quality, water quality, land use, wildlife impacts, recreational and visual resources, cultural resources, safety and socioeconomic impacts. FERC found limited environmental impacts, which are reduced by the applicants' proposed mitigation programs. The developers of both projects are committed to safety and environmental stewardship, and both will implement inspection and monitoring programs, along with the mitigation plans, to ensure continued protection of workers, the public and the environment.

The Jordan Cove liquefaction plant is unique in that it will be the only terminal for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports on the West Coast of the lower 48 states. Jordan Cove and the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline will provide the only route for some of the natural gas produced in the Rocky Mountain region to be exported. Producers in the Piceance Basin in northwest Colorado currently have extensive and underused natural gas pipeline and processing capacity, which would allow them to readily ramp up supply to pipelines that feed the interstate Ruby Pipeline. Only 60 percent of the Ruby Pipeline

capacity has been used over the last two years, thus it will be able to provide a route to the west for a large portion of any new production in the mountain states.

Numerous studies have found that LNG exports will boost the U.S. economy, provide high paying jobs and increase our energy security, all with a very small increase in the price of natural gas. The Department of Energy's LNG export study found only modest price increases, \$.22 to \$1.11 per Mcf after five years of exports.¹ A study by ICF International found that 79% - 88% of proposed LNG export volumes would be offset by increases in domestic natural gas production, moderating any price increases caused by the increased demand of exports.² Much of this increase in production would likely come from currently untapped natural gas fields in the Rocky Mountain region.

Approval of the Jordan Cove Liquefaction and Pacific Connector Pipeline projects are a vital step to increasing our energy security and boosting our western states' economies. We urge FERC to expeditiously proceed with their applications. Thank you for consider our comments.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Sgamma
VP of Government & Public Affairs

¹ [DOE LNG Export Study Part 2](#), NERA Economic Consulting, December 3, 2012.

² [U.S. LNG Exports: Impacts on Energy Markets and the Economy](#), ICF International, May 15, 2013.