

For Immediate Release

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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**River Advocates Firm in Opposition as Oregon LNG Files New Application for LNG Export**

Astoria, OR – Local activists and conservation groups reiterated their opposition to LNG exports today after Oregon LNG announced that it has filed a new application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to construct an export terminal and pipeline in Oregon and Washington.

“Oregon LNG has faced diverse and widespread opposition in Clatsop County since the project began in 2004 as an LNG import terminal,” stated Brett VandenHeuvel, executive direct of Columbia Riverkeeper. “We are more resolved than ever to chart a better future for the Columbia than this polluting, destructive LNG export project.”

In July 2012 Oregon LNG announced its plans to join with Williams Pipeline’s proposed Washington Expansion Project – involving 140 miles of new pipeline construction through Washington – to ship natural gas overseas to Asia, where consumers pay much higher prices for energy. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the exportation of natural gas as LNG will increase energy prices for every American.

Regardless of Oregon LNG’s application to FERC, the terminal and pipeline need approval from local and state decision-makers. For example, over two years ago, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners found that 41 miles of the pipeline in Clatsop County would violate protections of farmland, forests, salmon habitat, and public safety. After two years of failed legal challenges by Oregon LNG, the issue is likely to come to a final vote soon in Clatsop County.

Cheryl Johnson, a retired school librarian and Clatsop County resident added that the state of Oregon also has an important role to play in vetting the project.

“Our community voted by a two to one margin to reject LNG in 2008. Oregon LNG’s new export proposal is even worse. Regardless of what FERC does, we need our state government to recognize the danger that this project poses to local jobs, our safety, and the health of our river. We call on Oregon to reject Oregon LNG, and to disallow the use of our state-owned resources for this type of speculative scheme.”

The related Williams Washington Expansion Project has not yet announced a formal application to FERC, but FERC plans to review the two proposals together as interrelated, interdependent projects.

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