

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20593-0001  
Staff Symbol: CG-5222  
Phone: (202) 372-1410  
Fax: (202) 372-1926  
Email: Patrick.W.Clark@uscg.mil

16611  
December 16, 2008

Mr. Joel La Bissonniere  
Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services  
United States Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. La Bissonniere,

On behalf of the Commandant, Admiral Thad Allen, I'm writing in response to your letter of December 1, 2008, regarding the Broadwater floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal proposed for Long Island Sound and the associated administrative appeal pending before the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. Specifically, you requested any views the Coast Guard wished to provide on the request by Broadwater that the Secretary of Commerce override the state of New York's consistency objections on the grounds that the proposed activity is "consistent with the objectives" of the CZMA, and necessary in the interest of the national security.

The Coast Guard's role on the Broadwater project, related to environmental impacts, was limited to providing information as a cooperating agency to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in development of their environmental impact statement. The information we analyzed and provided input on focused on the subject areas where we have a demonstrated expertise and regulatory authority: the safety and security of the port and waterway. Our Letter of Recommendation requires the applicant to resolve the CZMA issues but does not attempt to question those conclusions reached by state and federal authorities on the question of consistency with applicable state plans.

The Coast Guard does not issue licenses or permits to LNG terminals and therefore is not a Federal permitting agency for the Broadwater project. Since your inquiry does not relate to any of the matters within our jurisdiction or expertise, we have no views or comments to offer concerning the CZMA issues described in your letter.

If you have any additional questions, please contact CDR Patrick Clark of my staff at the number or email listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. L. Blair", written over a large, stylized flourish.

M. L. BLAIR  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Chief, Operating and Environmental Standards  
U.S. Coast Guard  
By Direction

Copy: Commandant (CG-DCO)