



### **Deutsche Umwelthilfe reveals planning deficiencies for another LNG terminal: LNG plant near Wilhelmshaven not eligible for approval**

New legal opinion from Deutsche Umwelthilfe confirms: Planned project in river Jade would not be eligible for approval - Consequences of climate change and accident law stand in the way of construction of the plant – Federal Economics Minister Altmaier and Prime Minister Weil are nevertheless pushing ahead with planning of climate-damaging LNG terminals - DUH calls for planning to stop and will participate in further proceedings

Berlin/Wilhelmshaven, 3.12.2019: The planned LNG terminal near Wilhelmshaven cannot be approved for environmental and safety reasons. This is the result of a legal opinion presented today in Berlin by Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH). The terminal is intended to import liquefied natural gas (LNG). Sources could include fracking gas from the US and gas from Qatar. DUH demands an immediate planning stop for the plant.

The floating LNG terminal with regasification plant is planned in the river Jade near Wilhelmshaven. The site is located in an area where the consequences of climate change will be particularly drastic due to sea-level rise and the increase in extreme storm surges. In addition, there are several nature conservation areas in the immediate vicinity, not only outstanding areas, but also areas with the highest nature conservation status of all. A larger discharge of LNG above water leads to evaporation, forming a flammable cloud. According to the expert opinion, an accident-prone plant, which would also require extensive dredging work in the sensitive Jade, should therefore not be approved. According to the applicable regional planning programme, no use has been designated for the area.

DUH rejects the construction of all LNG terminals planned on the German coast. For the planned site in Brunsbüttel, DUH has already initiated extensive safety inspections, the results of which are still not available. This already means a significant delay for the project.

Fossil natural gas is harmful to the climate. New infrastructure created for this purpose, such as LNG terminals, contradicts climate targets and prevents the energy transition. Due to the leakage of methane gas and the energy loss from liquefaction and transport, liquid natural gas contributes to climate change. In addition to the climate balance, the planned LNG terminals will also be filled with fracking gas from the US. The production of fracking gas damages climate and environment and can lead to earthquakes.

Nevertheless, the federal and state governments continue with their plans: A regulation from June 2019 will impose costs for the connection of the terminal to the natural gas network on gas customers. This alone will relieve investors in Wilhelmshaven of around 50 million euros. An exception in the Energy Industry Act also gives LNG companies the opportunity to be exempt from conditions that serve to safeguard competition. For the Brunsbüttel and Wilhelmshaven sites, such

an application has already been handed in at the Federal Network Agency. Advantage for the companies: The financial risk is considerably lower.

Sascha Müller-Kraenner, CEO of DUH: *"While the Federal Government is putting one obstacle after another in the way of climate-friendly wind energy, it is expediting investments in LNG terminals that are harmful to climate and environment. They are working hard on missing their own climate targets. The plans undermine the phase-out of fossil fuels and also pose an enormous safety risk. Lower Saxony is also behind the terminal and - as Prime Minister Stephan Weil is currently doing on a trip to Qatar - is clearing the way for good business with fossil gas. The Federal Government and Lower Saxony must no longer place the interests of individual companies above the protection of the environment and the climate. This area needs mitigation measures to climate change, not an accident-prone operation with hazardous and explosive substances."*

Cornelia Ziehm, lawyer and author of the legal opinion: *"The accident law, which has to be observed in an immission control procedure, required safety distances to the neighbouring areas, which are particularly valuable from the point of view of nature conservation. No use is designated for the intended lakeside location in the Jade. The current regional planning programme for Lower Saxony from 2017 provides for the unspoiled state of the area in question, particularly in view of the expected impacts of climate change and the need to protect the outstanding conservation areas in the Jade estuary. Against this backdrop, the project is not eligible for approval."*

For the Wilhelmshaven site, the draft of the Structural Strengthening Act provides 157 million euros as compensation for the decommissioning of coal-fired power plants. According to Lower Saxony's Economics Minister Bernd Althusmann, these funds will be used to make Wilhelmshaven the "energy hub" in Northwestern Europe. *"The funds from the structural funds must under no circumstances be used to promote fossil fuels. The Federal Government must create regulations to ensure that the funds from the coal exit are not used for LNG terminals, but only for sustainable and renewable infrastructure,"* demands Müller-Kraenner.

#### **Links:**

Press Release: <http://l.duh.de/p191203>

More about the Brunsbüttel site and the problems associated with LNG terminals:

<https://www.duh.de/lng/>

On the petition against the import of fracking gas via LNG terminals from Gustav, Lilli and the DUH:

[www.change.org/nofracking](http://www.change.org/nofracking)

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