

LNG Stade receives Letter of Disinterest from Environmental Groups

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Germany is Europe's largest gas consumer and a major hub for gas trading. The country has the [capacity to import](#) 54 billion m³ of gas a year from Norway, 208 billion m³ from Russia, and 25 million m³ from the Netherlands. Together with its storage capacity of 24.3 billion m³ – the [largest in Europe and fourth largest worldwide](#) – this capacity is over three times higher than Germany's own annual gas consumption.

A discussion about additional fossil gas infrastructure seems at first unnecessary. However, the country is nonetheless at the heart of disputes and geopolitical tensions over additional large gas infrastructure projects – such as the Russian pipeline Nord Stream 2 and three LNG import terminals aiming at importing fracked US gas.

The Hanseatic Energy Hub wants to realize the LNG import terminal Stade, Lower Saxony and has launched in December 2020 a [non-binding phase of Open Season](#) offering capacity from 2026 onwards. Market players have been invited to send in Letters of Interest for subscription of up to 12 bcm/a of regasification capacity. The terminal shall be built close to the Dow Chemical Complex at Stade.

However, LNG plans are met with fierce opposition in Germany, already leading to significant delays and setbacks for the other planned terminals at Wilhelmshaven, Lower Saxony and Brunsbüttel, Schleswig-Holstein.

Over 30 international environmental groups decided to participate in the Open Season and sent a Letter of Disinterest, dismissing claims that there's a need for new fossil gas infrastructure and highlighting climate and economic implications of the project.

“The scientific evidence shows that fossil gas is a significant driver of global warming and climate change – not just due to the CO₂ emissions produced during combustion, but also because of the methane leaks that occur during extraction and transport”, says Constantin Zerger, Head of Energy and Climate Protection at Environmental Action Germany (Deutsche Umwelthilfe). “The LNG import terminal Stade will contribute directly to an increase in global warming at a time when we desperately need to start talking about proper fossil gas phase-out plans.”

“New gas infrastructure has a significant economic lifespan (usually between 30 and 50 years) that goes way beyond the point when we would need to fully decarbonize”, adds Andy Gheorghiu, campaigner and consultant for climate and environmental protection. “The construction of any new fossil fuel infrastructure, therefore, contributes to increasing the risk of missing the EU 2050 climate objective and Paris Agreement targets by creating a “lock in” effect to high levels of gas consumption.”

The letter also refers to the substantial risk to the economies of fossil fuel exporting as well as importing nations from continued investment in fossil fuel infrastructure. The signatories call on the investors to drop the project and invest instead in climate friendly alternatives.

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Downloads:

[Letter of Disinterest LNG Stade](#)