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Dear Broward Board of County Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of our 9,700 supporters in Broward County. Food & Water Watch has been extensively tracking liquified natural gas (LNG) transport and export operations on Florida's east coast, and we are greatly concerned about New Fortress Energy's (NFE) LNG export operations in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Since 2016, NFE has been exporting LNG through Port Everglades by transporting LNG via trucks and rail through densely populated corridors to the Port from the Hialeah Rail Yard 30 miles inland several times every week. The Biden Administration recently took action to cut down on [LNG transport by rail](#) across the country, but it does not address the special permit allowing this export, and we urge the Commission to heed the Administration's concerns and follow suit.

Public health advocates and [engineers alike have been sounding the alarm on the dangers associated with these types of operations](#) due to the volatility of LNG. If a puncture occurs in an LNG container from an accident, a vapor cloud can form which has the potential to cause an explosion. If the accidentally released vapors from an LNG container are exposed to flames from an accident, a [boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion \(BLEVE\)](#) may occur, [producing a fireball up to a mile wide, killing all within the immediate vicinity](#), and [overwhelming our local emergency services](#). Fires from LNG vapors [cannot be put out by conventional methods](#), exacerbating the difficulty of handling such a potentially catastrophic accident. The handling of large quantities of LNG at Port Everglades, as well as the transport of LNG through Broward County by rail and truck, is flirting with disaster. [China has already seen fatal large-scale explosions](#) from these tanker trucks passing through urban areas; this sort of accident could happen here.

Due to safety concerns, the Biden Administration recently proposed suspending a 2019 rule from the Trump Administration that allowed for expansion of LNG transport by rail. Unfortunately, this proposed suspension does not impact LNG rail transport in Florida since the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) [received a special approval by the U.S. Department of Transportation](#) in 2017 prior to the 2019 rule. Even with this federal action, Broward and Miami-Dade residents are still at risk.

According to a recent records request, [Food & Water Watch uncovered that NFE plans to nearly quadruple the amount of LNG they're exporting through Port Everglades](#). More LNG transported through the county means more risk to residents and a very real possibility of damage to the port itself. Under Broward County Code, the Port Everglades [Tariff Agreement at Item No. 302](#), authorizes the port operator "the right to restrict or prohibit the entry or handling of any cargo or other property in the Main Zone due to its hazardous... nature." Moreover, [Tariff Agreement Item 318](#) states that the port's operator "may at any time immediately order halted any operation which is deemed to create an unsafe condition potentially causing personal injury, damage to property or the environment, or which may create a hazardous or obnoxious condition." Given this authority, it is vital that the Broward County Commissioners direct Port Everglades' officials to suspend LNG loading and unloading within the port as this poses a serious risk to public safety and damage to port property.

Due to the safety risks posed by the handling of LNG at Port Everglades, as well as the dangers of transporting LNG by rail and truck through heavily populated areas, we urge the Broward County Commission to act by directing Port Everglades to not accept LNG at the port.

Thank you for your attention to this issue,



Michelle Allen
Southern Region Deputy Director
Food & Water Watch