

February 22, 2022

Dear Broward Board of County Commissioners,

I'm writing to request a meeting with you to follow up on the letter I sent on January 12th concerning the transportation and export of liquified natural gas (LNG) in Broward County. I received a letter (attached) from Port Director Jonathan Daniels and his letter leaves us with more questions and concerns. I've outlined our concerns below, and hope we can meet in the next few weeks to discuss these further. Please let me know when you're available.

First, the manner of LNG transport through the county remains in question. As outlined in our letter last month, the transport of LNG from the Hialeah Rail Yard to Port Everglades is dangerous and puts residents in harm's way. In his letter (attached), Mr. Daniels suggests the Port receives LNG by truck only. However, in [an email we received from a records request, New Fortress Energy \(NFE\) representative John Fontenot emailed Mr. Daniels on 9/30/21 explaining NFE moves their LNG containers by both truck and rail](#). Additionally, Florida East Coast Railway received [special authorization from the Federal Railroad Administration](#) to transport LNG from the Hialeah facility to Port Everglades. Both manners of transport are dangerous and require examination.

Second, the routes by which LNG travels through Broward County remains shrouded in mystery. LNG is a hazardous material, and its transport poses a significant safety risk. More clarification is needed on this matter so Broward County residents can better understand how LNG is transported from NFE's facility at the Hialeah Rail Yard through Broward County and into Port Everglades. If LNG is not being transported via rail, and instead by truck as Mr. Daniels' letter claims, for example, what are the routes NFE is using in the county? Do the trucks pass by schools, nursing homes, or hospitals? Citizens should not have to rely on public records requests to uncover the truth about these projects.

Third, it is unclear whether an adequate risk assessment has been undertaken by public safety authorities. Mr. Daniels' letter suggests the Broward Fire Rescue Department approved plans to store LNG at the facility, however he does not mention whether they have any protocols or received any training to deal with accidents involving the transportation of LNG from the Hialeah facility to Port Everglades. LNG transport is not benign: The [International Association of Fire Fighters strongly opposed the federal rule](#) change to allow LNG transport by rail, citing the significant risks of transporting volatile LNG. When the [Martin County Fire Rescue conducted a vulnerability assessment](#) on transporting LNG in 2015, they found that nearly 1,500 residents would be impacted by an accident, and that an emergency caused by LNG could exceed the capabilities of local emergency response. Did the Broward Fire Rescue Department conduct a similar assessment in the port or along the potential route along Broward County?

We appreciate Mr. Daniels' prompt reply to our concerns, but fundamentally, we do not believe that any of the steps involved, from the liquification to transportation to the export of LNG has ever truly received a comprehensive review nor that the public has had any sense that this is happening in the community. What we seek is not an assuaging of concerns, but hard facts about the reality of LNG transport in Broward County.

Given all these questions, we urge you to launch an investigation and halt transport of LNG at Port Everglades.

Thank you for your time. Please let me know when your schedule would allow for a meeting on this.

Best,

Michelle Allen
Southern Region Deputy Director, Food & Water Watch