



## LNG Terminal One Step Closer

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The potential LNG port facility in the Long Island Sound looks like it is [getting closer and closer to coming to reality](#).

Broadwater Energy's proposal to construct a liquefied natural gas terminal in the middle of Long Island Sound came a step closer to reality Nov. 17. That is when the federal government released a long-awaited draft environmental impact statement that gave encouraging news to the company and dealt a blow to opponents.

The 800-page report, issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, concluded that the project's impact on the environment should be minimal if the company follows certain recommendations. FERC has the ultimate authority to approve or deny the proposal, so while its conclusions are not final, they are certainly significant. Many hurdles remain. But the scales are beginning to tilt in the L.N.G. terminal's favor.

As New York looks to clean up and diversify its energy supply portfolio, nothing may be more important than establishing a secure link to the world's more isolated supplies of natural gas. Natural gas burns cleaner than oil and much cleaner than coal, but as North American natural gas supplies become less certain it is important for the New York to look beyond the continental network of pipelines. There is currently 3,000 trillion cubic feet of stranded natural gas around the world which is enough to produce 300 billion barrels of fuel. And that's only stranded reserves. There are another 3,200 trillion barrels that are not considered to be stranded.

Obviously, conservation planning ideas should come first, but but opening New York to receive the world's reserves of stranded gas reserves at a time when future energy supplies are uncertain. This is certainly a better source of energy environmentally than just building more coal fired power plants.



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