



Helen Delich Bentley

408 Chapelwood Lane
Lutherville, Maryland 21093-2816

Member of U.S. Congress 1985-1995
Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, 1969-1975

Telephone 410-561-1777
Fax 410-561-1868

May 30, 2006

Mr. Aaron Samson
Managing Director, LNG Projects
AES Coral, LLC
195 Injun Hollow Road
Haddam Neck, Connecticut 06424

Dear Aaron:

It is with great regret that I must terminate my independent contractor engagement with AES Corporation. I have enjoyed working with you and other members of the AES Sparrows Point team, and continue to believe that your proposed LNG facility at Sparrows Point is a good project at the right place at the right time. It is my hope that the project will ultimately be approved.

I have listened carefully to all of the arguments made by the opponents of the project. While some points made by them may be well-founded (dredging impacts, impacts on marine traffic and so forth), I disagree with those who claim that LNG is explosive and LNG vessels are "bombs". I have been involved with LNG, either directly or indirectly, since I was Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, beginning in 1969, and am familiar with its excellent record. In fact, LNG tanks have been stationed in downtown Baltimore along Hanover Street for decades without incident.

I became involved because I believe in the long-term totality of the economic benefits at stake. First, it will require about 4,000,000 man-hours of union construction labor. Throughout my political career, I have always worked very hard to bring union work to eastern Baltimore County. Second, I notice the project will create a reliable local source of inexpensive, environmentally-friendly energy that will be tied into the BG&E natural gas system, likely resulting in lower energy costs for the people of central Maryland for decades to come. Third, and of great import, are the advantages your project accrues to the Port of Baltimore. The addition of 100 to 150 ships a year calling on Baltimore will trigger all sorts of local benefits to the Port community and will put Baltimore in a much stronger position to advocate continued federal financial support for required Bay channel dredging in the decades ahead. And of course, AES will instantly become one of Baltimore County's biggest taxpayers as it pays millions of dollars of property taxes to the County each year.

- 2 -

My decision to terminate our contractual relationship is based on certain opponents increasingly trying to make *me* the issue. Everyone is fully aware of my deep commitment to the community of Dundalk. I have fought on behalf of Dundalk and its citizens for most of my adult lifetime. I would never take any position that I felt was not in the best interests of Dundalk. Claims in recent weeks that I have turned my back on Dundalk have hurt.

It appears that some persons believe they can win traction for headlines by attacking me and my commitment to Dundalk. Therefore, I believe the best course is for me to step aside, and thus remove a potential source of continued controversy.

My parting advice to you is the same since this project began, and which you have followed all the way along: (1) Go out and talk to the people of Dundalk. Most persons living in Dundalk are fair, decent citizens. In following my advice, you have scheduled and attended literally dozens of community meetings, far more than any developer that I have ever dealt with. Good for you; your attentiveness and responsiveness will pay dividends in the long run; keep it up. (2) Pay attention to the concerns voiced by the people of Dundalk. When they raise legitimate issues, go the extra mile to try to respond to their concerns. I am pleased you are following this advice. Your decision to spend many millions of dollars to dry out your dredge spoils and then ship them to places in the mid-Atlantic region where they can be used for fill is a good example of the lengths that you are willing to go (and money that you are willing to spend) to accommodate the concerns of the residents of Dundalk. (3) Should AES prevail, and then build a power plant, consider offering reduced rates to area residents.

Very truly yours,



Helen Delich Bentley

HDB/sdm