

Baltimore County LNG depot is well worth the risks

(The writer is president of the Baltimore Building and Construction Trades Council. This letter was published in the Baltimore Sun on 3-12-08, and in other local Baltimore newspapers.)

On Feb. 27, the U.S. Coast Guard released findings that described the actions necessary to ensure the security of the liquid natural gas I hope will soon be using the LNG terminal proposed for Sparrows Point.

The developer of the proposed terminal has responded favorably to the Coast Guard's recommendations.

The Baltimore Building and Construction Trades Council also welcomes the Coast Guard's recommendations; they are paving the responsible path to the more than 4 million hours of work for union construction workers that could go into building the LNG terminal.

We believe that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will suggest additional safety measures when it releases its project assessment in April.

Cheaper, cleaner energy is necessary to saving the good-paying jobs that still exist in Baltimore County, and will be essential if we hope to rebuild the county's economic base.

The LNG terminal is the only project currently in the pipeline that can fill this need.

The federal reports on the LNG project must be read carefully.

They are not a condemnation of this project; they are the blueprint for operating the facility in a safe manner.

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Baltimore