

# *Downeast LNG Newsletter*

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## **Letter from Dean**

Dear Friends:

We announced our plans to build a LNG import terminal in Robbinston a year ago next month and what a year it has been!

Right from the start the community has shown great interest in our project. Community members have turned out in force for public meetings, participated in various study committees, asked lots of thoughtful questions, and worked with us to create a partnership that offers maximum benefit to the people of Robbinston.

On top of all that, Robbinston became the first town in Maine to go on record in support of an LNG project. In a special town election on January 10, residents voted 227 to 83 to support the Downeast LNG project. According to town officials, the voter turnout was the highest on record.

We now have formally entered the permitting phase with the filing of our pre-application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and our Letter of Intent to the U.S. Coast Guard. There are still many studies to complete and hearings to be held, but we have made tremendous progress over the last 11 months thanks to your involvement.

Throughout the initial stages of this project the Downeast LNG team has had the opportunity to meet with many of you at public meetings and one-on-one discussions. We realize that not everyone supports our project, but all we have asked for is a fair hearing and most people have given us just that.

It is also worth noting that the project we proposed last summer is the same project we are presenting to the regulatory authorities for approval. We have been consistent in what we have presented and that is another reason why we have stayed on track.

If there is one thing we have heard consistently from local residents, it's "keep the project moving forward." With your continued support, that's just what we are doing!

Sincerely,



Dean Girdis

## Robbinston office opens

We're pleased to announce that our office is now open in Robbinston. Cathy Footer is running the office for us and is there during the week from 8:00 a.m. to mid-afternoon most days. The telephone number is 454-3925. Feel free to stop by for coffee and a chat!

We're delighted to have Cathy working with us. She and her husband, Mike, are longtime Robbinston residents and strong supporters of all that Downeast LNG is trying to accomplish in Washington County.

Here's a welcome message from Cathy:

*Hello everyone,  
My name is Cathy Footer. I have recently been hired as Project Assistant & Community Coordinator for Downeast LNG. I have lived in Robbinston most of my life and I look forward to future involvement with Downeast LNG and the Town of Robbinston. Please feel free to stop by our office or call me if you have any comments or questions about the project. Downeast LNG looks forward to a long and productive partnership with the people of Robbinston, and I am pleased to be a part of it.*

## Studies (and more studies!)

The staff and consultants of Downeast LNG have been very, very busy these last few months. Several major efforts are underway that involve significant environmental and engineering efforts. They include:

- Full environmental characterization of the project site, including land and marine facility areas (conducting studies and analyzing the data)
- Full environmental/engineering characterization of several natural gas pipeline routing alternatives (from the plant site to the Maritimes & Northeast Baileyville Compressor Station)
- Presenting project details and plans to federal and state agencies (many meetings!)
- Reviewing public and agency comments regarding the project (which already have run into the hundreds!)
- Preparing responses to each comment



*Rob Wyatt (at left), vice president for permitting, addresses the concerns of some local residents at the Downeast LNG Open House in April at the Robbinston Grade School. The open house preceded the FERC scoping meeting on March 28, 2006.*

## Environmental Studies

Downeast LNG continues to advance its environmental studies to a very detailed level. We are now conducting very specific reviews in many important areas. Here's a quick update:

- Groundwater quality... the lab says it's great
- Seismic conditions on site...the geologists say there are no problems
- Archaeology...lots of history on the land, but nothing significant on the construction site
- Underwater archaeology...yes, we have to check under the proposed pier, too.
- Endangered species surveys...eagles, frogs, dragonflies and more in the area, but our project plans have been designed to avoid them
- Aerial photography... getting close-up looks at the site and surrounding area
- Marine sediment quality...no lab data yet, but the clam flats are open!
- Noise surveys...samplers will be in the field in early June
- Marine geotechnical borings for the pier...you'll see the barge in the water soon
- Wetlands delineations...marking where and how much
- Traffic surveys...wave hello to the counters when you see them!

## Engineering Studies

Downeast LNG also has continued to take our engineering studies to new levels. Here are some things we are looking at:

- Rainfall runoff control... two upland culverts drain into our site now
- Site topography...how do we grade the site to best suit the area?
- Air quality engineering... so we run clean and stay clean
- Pipeline...how small can we make it and how best to route it?
- Safety...final engineering on all of the multiple, comprehensive safety systems
- Berth availability...studying weather conditions for ship planning
- Current metering...field studies for ensuring safe passage and docking
- Pier design...still no major pile driving needed (Good for noise control!)

We hope you have noticed that we have conducted our studies in as unobtrusive manner as possible. Some folks have said "we never see you guys in the field," and we think that is a good thing. We promised to be as non-disruptive as possible in our project work, and that is a practice we are working hard to maintain.

## Status of Town Agreement

The lawyers for DELNG and the Town of Robbinston are finalizing the proposed legal agreement between DELNG and the town. The terms and conditions of the proposed agreement that were previously agreed upon by both parties remain unchanged. We expect to have the final legal draft complete by the end of June.

## Pipeline Construction and Routing

DELNG has initiated detailed engineering work for the project's pipeline lateral extension to the Maritimes & Northeast natural gas distribution system and Baileyville compressor station.

This engineering includes making plans to maximize the placement of the pipeline in areas where there will be the least impact, such as alongside roadways and existing pipeline rights-of-ways, as well as avoiding personal property areas such as home sites and yards.

Please know that in all instances, Downeast LNG will work with each individual property owner in the coming months to ensure the least possible amount of disturbance in the general area and no disturbance of a property owner's areas of concern.

For example, several landowners have been concerned that special areas of their property (such as gardens, orchards, etc) would be disturbed by the pipeline construction. First, the pipeline routing is very preliminary at this time, and we are working to avoid all such areas. Second, when we meet with a landowner, we can all review the areas that the landowner would like us to avoid. In this way, we can identify very specific details of the route that minimize disruption to the landowners and community.

## Discussions with LNG Suppliers

No LNG project can go forward without having a gas supplier lined up. DELNG has initiated discussions with several LNG suppliers and has received positive interest in our proposed project. We will continue discussions with these companies to secure an LNG supply agreement in coordination with our permitting effort.

## FERC and U.S. Coast Guard hold DELNG Scoping Meeting



*It was standing room only at the Robbinston Grade School on March 28 as local ship's pilot Capt. Bob Peacock spoke in favor of the Downeast LNG project at the FERC/U.S. Coast Guard scoping session. The meeting was held to identify environmental, safety and security issues, but most of the speakers stressed the need for good jobs and economic development in eastern Washington County. Local residents Tom Mulholland, Ian Pratt, Mike Footer, and several others joined Peacock in expressing support for the project.*

## Quotable

*".... This community has never really shown that kind of...support for anything. And I feel that this project will benefit us economically and long-term it will supply us with a decent tax base."*

- Robbinston First Selectmen Tom Mulholland