

Downeast LNG Newsletter



Letter to the Community

Downeast LNG would like to thank everyone who attended our November 17 seminar at the Robbinston Grade School on Future Job Opportunities. The session was very well attended by about 130 people, and was the second in an ongoing series of informational seminars we are hosting to keep the public informed.

The meeting began with a project status update, during which I explained that we have just begun the permitting process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This is a long process, and we will need to apply for 50 or more permits from FERC and various other federal and state agencies. We're moving forward and appreciate the support we continue to receive from the community.

Our speakers described the potential for near term office positions in Robbinston with the Downeast development team, as well as the timeline for construction and operations positions. For each phase of the project, very detailed information regarding the number of positions and qualifications was provided. Rob Wyatt of Downeast LNG described the construction positions, Arthur Ransome of CH-IV engineers described the operations positions and training requirements, Captain Bob Peacock of Eastport Pilots explained the opportunities that will arise from the construction and operation of four tugs, and Darin McGaw of Washington County Community College shared information about the programs available at WCCC to train both construction and operations employees, as well as supplemental state funding available for training.

As part of our commitment to hiring locally, Downeast LNG wants area residents to know what types of positions will be available and what the skill levels and training requirements are so people can be prepared when we start hiring. Our speakers emphasized the fact that skills commonly needed for other facilities are transferable to operating an LNG terminal, and that once hired, plant-specific training is provided on a regular basis.

Photo: Dean Girdis at Future Job Opportunities Seminar

We know there are many more people who wanted to attend but couldn't, so we videotaped the session and are working to air it on cable access channels in the area. Since Robbinston doesn't have one, we will also make extra copies available at public libraries in the coming weeks, and the slides from our seminar will be posted on our website soon at www.downeastlng.com.



We are very proud of our project, and will continue to keep you informed about our progress. A summary of the recently completed UMAINE economic analysis of our project is attached for your information.

Thanks again for your continued interest, and please feel free to contact us at any time.

Best regards,

Dean Girdis, Downeast LNG

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The University of Maine Study Supports the Economic Benefits of the Downeast LNG Import Terminal

In September of this year, Downeast LNG asked the University of Maine Department of Resource Economics and Policy and the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at the University of Maine to conduct an analysis of the economic impact of our proposed project. The University was selected for the quality of its researchers and because academia offers a neutral and an unbiased perspective. Their study, issued on December 1, 2005, makes it clear that our proposed LNG import terminal will bring substantial economic benefits to Washington County and the State of Maine.

Downeast LNG has projected that our project will create approximately 300 jobs during construction and 78 permanent jobs once the terminal facility is operational. The University of Maine researchers determined the total impact of the project, including direct and indirect jobs, would be substantial:

- 1,053 jobs per year statewide during the anticipated three-year construction phase, with \$42.9 million annually in wages and benefits

375 of these jobs would be in Washington County, with \$15.3 million per year in income to local workers.

- 253 jobs statewide after the plant is operational, with \$10.7 million per year in wages and benefits.

187 of those jobs would be in Washington County, with an estimated income of \$8.1 million annually to local workers

The researchers also determined that the proposed facility would create significant tax benefits, including \$1.3 million in state personal income taxes and \$1.3 million in state sales tax during construction. Once operational, the company would pay between \$625,000 and \$1.8 million in corporate income taxes, and workers supported by the facility would pay \$539,268 in personal income taxes. The project would also provide significant new property tax revenue to the town of Robbinston.

For more information, the complete study is available online at www.umaine.edu/mcsc.

Notable Comments from Residents

"I am very excited that a facility such as the one Downeast LNG is proposing is coming to our area. Our area is pristine and beautiful; however, we lack good jobs, tax base, and a reason to keep our young people home."

"I am 100% supportive of this project. I own and operate my own lobster boat and have also worked on other fishing boats."

"I'm interested in all of it – first the new office in Robbinston, then construction, and operations. Can we do jobs in all these?" [Yes!]