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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

LNG plan will help meet region's needs

Since beginning our community engagement last fall, we have encouraged public dialogue and examination of the Broadwater project. We believe it's important that the public ask questions and have all the facts before any decisions are made. That's why we feel it is necessary to respond to the *Connecticut Post's* recent editorial, "Long Island joins LNG terminal fight" (March 21, 2005).

The editorial misrepresents public opinion, giving the impression that all Connecticut and Long Island residents have joined the fight against building a new LNG terminal in the Sound. The fact is that an opinion survey of Long Island residents, recently released by the respected survey firm, Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, shows that 73 percent of residents support continuing the environmental and regulatory

HAVE YOUR SAY

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review of the Broadwater project. Further, 71 percent surveyed don't think enough is being done to increase energy supplies and 82 percent don't think enough is being done to address energy prices.

Broadwater proposes to deliver natural gas to Connecticut and New York as a new source of clean energy for heating and power generation. To implement this plan safely with minimal impact on the environment, we propose to use a floating vessel that will not degrade water quality or the ecology of Long Island Sound. The floating facility will connect

to an existing pipeline via a new interconnecting pipeline located well away from shellfish beds to avoid construction in sensitive shoreline areas.

With a location in the Sound at least nine miles from a coastline and remote from population centers, the public will be safe, the vessel will be hardly visible on a clear day, and a new cleaner supply of energy will be available to meet public demand and stabilize prices.

Without new supplies of natural gas, the region will likely face higher energy prices and volatility; potential energy shortages as demand exceeds

supplies; and increased use of coal and oil for electric generation — leading to greater air emissions of SO₂, mercury, NO_x, and CO₂, which impacts the Sound through acid deposition and impacts society by increasing incidences of asthma and other respiratory illness.

Broadwater believes that the public should have an opportunity to be presented with all the facts necessary to participate in the selection of the best alternative and to assess potential environmental impacts. We believe that following the full environmental review process an informed public will choose to support this clean, safe, and environmentally sensible energy supply over other alternatives.

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