

EPA's Liquefied Natural Gas Regulatory Roadmap



Acknowledgments

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On the Cover

EPA thanks the Center for Liquefied Natural Gas for use of the photos of a natural gas tanker and ariel shot of an import facility.

Along with many other federal agencies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plays an important role in the approval and permitting of LNG import projects (or LNG projects), whether the approval is for the development of a new project or the expansion of an existing project. EPA's *LNG Regulatory Roadmap* catalogs the numerous points at which EPA's statutory and regulatory duties require the Agency to participate in the LNG project approval and permitting process. The *Roadmap* is designed to serve not only as an aid to the regulated community, but also to assist the Agency in meeting its regulatory responsibilities in a timely and effective manner.

Because LNG import projects can be quite different in terms of their physical siting and operational design, and the applicable law also varies, EPA's role varies on a project-by-project basis. The *Roadmap* acknowledges these permutations and focuses on the following key areas of Agency involvement:

- 1. The LNG project approval and environmental review process;**
- 2. Requirements and decision making related to air emissions;**
- 3. Requirements related to water quality; and**
- 4. Other permitting requirements and considerations.**

The *Roadmap* presents discussions of EPA requirements that may apply to offshore projects (i.e., located beyond state seaward boundaries), as well as onshore and near shore projects (i.e., located within state waters).

Figure 1 (see next page) provides an overview of EPA's role in the environmental review process. Figure 2 (see following page) illustrates EPA's role in the permitting process and other considerations.

The *Technical Appendix* provides a detailed description of the various requirements discussed in the *Roadmap*. To the extent possible, the *Technical Appendix* attempts to distinguish how permitting and approval requirements may vary based upon design characteristics (e.g., the technology used to re-gasify LNG) and the location of associated activities such as pipeline construction.

