

Name: Charles Bryan Baron  
Email Address: cbb1377@gmail.com  
Title: Esquire  
Organization: Charles Bryan Baron, Esq.  
County: Nassau

Dear Energy Board member: I strongly urge The New York State Energy Board to revise its Draft 2009 NYS Energy Plan to exclude any and all provisions that would allow Atlantic Sea Island Group's "Safe Harbor Energy" project to build an artificial island 13.5 miles off the shore of Long Island. This island will serve as a depot for LNG imported from foreign countries. Natural gas is a fossil fuel that emits slightly less carbon dioxide than petroleum, but the process of converting it to liquid, shipping it in tankers and regasifying it gives LNG a carbon footprint that is at least 20% greater than that of domestic natural gas. Safe Harbor Energy intends to lay approximately 12.8 miles of pipeline four feet below the ocean's floor from the terminal to meet an existing pipeline that extends from New Jersey to Long Beach, Long Island. This existing pipeline is already being used at its capacity. Bringing in another pipeline to meet the existing one will not bring in more natural gas, but will displace domestic natural gas with foreign gas. The construction of this island will disturb 116 acres of the ocean's floor in water that is 60-70 feet deep. It is proposed to be built on Cholera Bank, which is the only natural "reef" on the New York/New Jersey coast. Most of the ocean floor in this region is comprised of sand and silt. Cholera Bank is the only hard-bottom surface, and because of its reef-like properties, it serves as a migratory ecosystem for numerous varieties of marine life, including several endangered species of fish and sea mammals-all subject to destruction if these plans are approved. This will be the first artificial island designed specifically for the import, storage, regasification and distribution of LNG in this country. A similar island was proposed off the coast of California, but Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoed it because the proposal fell short of California's strict standards for public health and safety and for the environment. Closer to home, the Broadwater project to situate an LNG barge nine miles from the north shore of Long Island was rejected by Gov. Paterson, who objected to the industrialization of the Long Island Sound and cited the need to preserve the Sound as a valuable estuary. Is the ocean off the south shore of Long Island any less valuable? The environmental impact study is underway. Before the study is complete, the NYS Energy Planning Board must take a stance against the Safe Harbor Energy proposal. I respectfully request that the NYS Energy Planning Board revise the Plan so that ASIG's Safe Harbor Energy project is no longer a consideration for NY State's energy future. Thank you for your attention. Please keep me updated as to the status of this request. Sincerely, Charles Bryan Baron, Esq.