

TITLE: Calibrating economic and environmental impacts - The case of deep water liquefied natural gas (LNG) ports in the United States.

ABSTRACT: With rising U.S. consumption of natural gas outpacing domestic production, importation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) gains greater significance as part of overall energy security. Government deep water port policy has shifted with recent amendments of the Deep Water Ports Act (1974) encouraging the development of offshore LNG ports and encouraging the use of U.S. flagged LNG tankers. The policy envisioned certain maritime economic benefits and the mitigation of environmental impacts arising from the development of LNG port structures and the attendant maritime traffic. The research seeks to determine whether the economic benefits contemplated by the deepwater port policy have been realized. Additionally, in an era of sustainable development, are the safeguards, designed to protect the marine environment, meeting their objective? This paper introduces the proposed research aimed at calibrating the economic and environmental impacts related to deep water LNG ports in federal waters.

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