

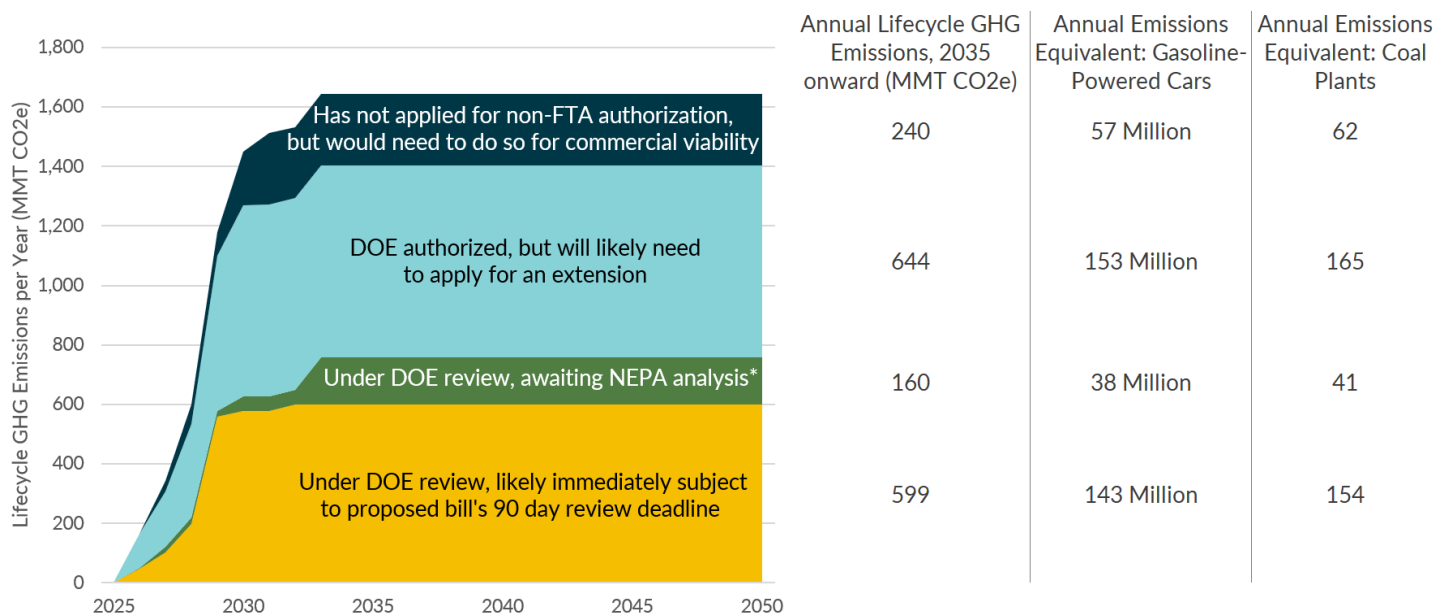
# STOP THE DIRTY DEAL

Fast-tracked gas exports worsen the climate crisis and cause serious local health and economic harms

[Senator Manchin and Senator Barrasso’s Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024](#) threatens to gut the process by which the Department of Energy (DOE) determines whether liquefied methane gas (LNG) exports to non-free trade agreement (FTA) countries are in the public’s interest. The bill would limit the DOE’s ability to conduct a thorough review of gas export terminal proposals, forcing the agency to automatically issue approvals if it cannot meet a 90 day time limit for review. We must not circumvent or shortchange the critical analysis that federal agencies provide, nor the ability of communities to challenge approval of these facilities that will pollute their homes for generations. While the bill includes provisions that may accelerate the deployment of clean energy and transmission infrastructure, they should not be paired with giveaways to the fossil fuel industry. **We need Members of Congress to protect our climate and communities by opposing this [dirty deal](#). As demonstrated below, the harms from LNG unleashed by this bill are overwhelming and must be avoided.**

The [US exports more LNG than any other country](#) in the world. This supercooled gas spells big problems for the climate and causes air pollution in communities near the terminals and as far as hundreds of miles away. LNG is a fossil fuel composed of methane, a greenhouse gas (GHG) that is [over 80 times](#) more potent than carbon dioxide over 20 years – a timespan that is critical for meeting the US goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Methane and carbon emissions along every phase of the LNG lifecycle – extraction, transportation, liquefaction, shipping, regasification, and combustion – mean that LNG is a climate-intensive fuel, and the proposed LNG buildout would lock in decades of fossil fuel use, threatening to crowd out renewable energy buildout in importing countries.

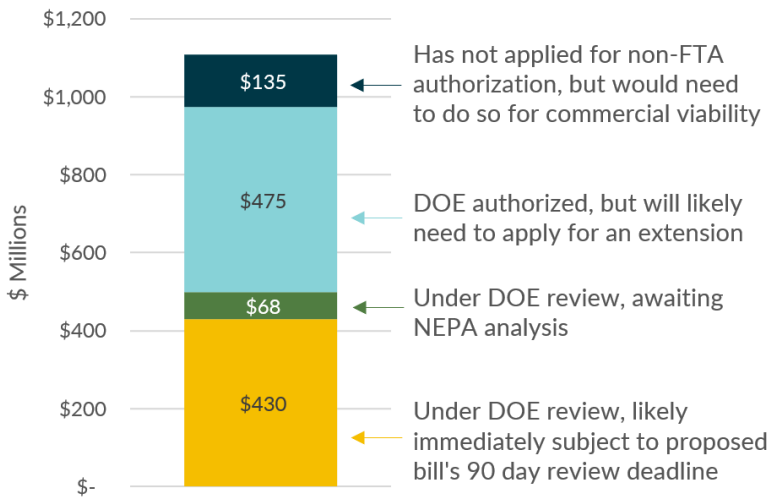
Lifecycle Emissions of US LNG Export Projects Seeking DOE Authorization



\* These applications are not ready for DOE review until their relevant environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is completed.

The LNG projects that would likely be immediately subject to the 90 day review deadline if this bill passes would have climate-damaging emissions equivalent to 154 coal-fired power plants. For comparison, as of August 2024, there are [145 coal plants](#) left in the entire US that don’t have a retirement date by 2030. When looking at all the projects that DOE is likely to review in the coming years, the climate toll goes up to that of 422 coal plants.

## Annual Health Costs from US LNG Export Projects Seeking DOE Authorization



In addition to producing immense amounts of climate pollution, these terminals are [permitted to emit levels of air pollution that cause serious health harms](#). If the projects considered here are built, they would cause over 70 premature deaths and health costs of \$1.1 billion each year from their currently permitted air pollution.

There is a strong overlap between areas that are already environmentally overburdened and the areas that would experience the worst air pollution impacts from the full LNG buildout. This represents only a subset of the health harms from LNG, which also include air pollution from upstream and downstream infrastructure, hazardous emissions such as benzene, the impacts of explosions or other emergencies, and broader climate harms.

The LNG export projects whose permitting processes would be fast-tracked by this proposed bill also bring economic harm to local communities. LNG buildout threatens local tourism, fishing, and shrimping industries. Also, exporting US gas overseas links domestic gas prices to the volatile global gas market, resulting in higher gas prices for US consumers. This leaves low-income families with an unsustainable “energy burden” – the share of their income spent on energy. Households in [Louisiana](#) and [Texas](#) have seen gas prices rise 44 and 50 percent, respectively, since the US started exporting LNG, and the lowest income households in those states already spend one in every five to seven dollars on energy bills. Households in majority Black and Latino neighborhoods face a higher energy burden than those in majority white neighborhoods.

### Methodology

This fact sheet considers US LNG projects that could be impacted by changes to DOE’s approval process for exports to non-FTA countries as of August 2024. This is a subset of [all US LNG export projects](#) (see table below). Lifecycle GHG calculations are based on emissions estimates from a [Carnegie Mellon study](#), using the 20 year global warming potential of methane, applied to the full capacity of LNG terminals. Health impacts values are sourced from [Permit To Kill](#) (Table 3), using the high estimate for premature mortalities and health costs for projects included in that study. Category key: (1) Under DOE review, likely immediately subject to proposed bill’s 90 day review deadline; (2) Under DOE review, awaiting NEPA analysis; (3) DOE authorized, but will likely need to apply for an extension; (4) Has not applied for non-FTA authorization, but would need to do so for commercial viability.

Project	Category	Included in Health Impacts Values	Project	Category	Included in Health Impacts Values
Calcasieu Pass LNG Uprate	1	No	Cameron LNG Phase II	3	Yes
Commonwealth LNG	1	Yes	Driftwood LNG	3	Yes
Corpus Christi LNG Midscale 8-9	1	Yes	Eagle LNG Partners	3	Yes
CP2 LNG Phase I & II	1	Yes	Freeport LNG Expansion	3	Yes
Delfin LNG (extension request)	1	No	Golden Pass LNG	3	Yes
Lake Charles LNG	1	Yes	Gulf LNG Liquefaction	3	Yes
Magnolia LNG	1	Yes	Rio Grande LNG Phase I & II	3	Yes
Plaquemines LNG Uprate	1	No	Texas LNG Brownsville	3	Yes
Port Arthur LNG Expansion	1	Yes	Delta LNG Phase I & II	4	Yes
Elba Island LNG Uprate	2	No	Penn LNG	4	No
Gulfstream LNG	2	No	Power LNG	4	No
New Fortress Energy LA Fast LNG	2	No	Qilak LNG	4	No
Sabine Pass LNG Stage V	2	Yes	West Delta LNG	4	No

For more information, please contact Sierra Club Director of Beyond Fossil Fuels Policy Mahyar Sorour at [mahyar.sorour@sierraclub.org](mailto:mahyar.sorour@sierraclub.org).