

Force to report certain findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Baltimore County Liquefied Natural Gas Task Force.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article — Public Utility Companies~~

~~Section 11-101~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1998 Volume and 2005 Supplement)~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, The demand in the United States for natural gas for residential and industrial use and for power generation is increasing rapidly and the United States now relies on natural gas for nearly one quarter of its energy use; and

WHEREAS, Projections indicate that consumption of natural gas in North America will soon outpace production; and

WHEREAS, Technology has made the importation of natural gas in its liquefied form feasible and cost effective, and imports of liquefied natural gas to the United States are expected to sharply increase in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, An overwhelming majority of the residents of the area have voiced their opposition to the proposed facility; and

WHEREAS, A liquefied natural gas facility has been proposed for the Sparrows Point area in eastern Baltimore County; and

WHEREAS, The public has a compelling interest in obtaining complete comprehensive, factual, and objective information regarding the siting and safety of liquefied natural gas facilities; and

WHEREAS, Objective and accurate information about liquefied natural gas, including, most importantly, the safety aspects surrounding siting decisions should be readily available to communities near a proposed liquefied natural gas import terminal facility; and

WHEREAS, The public is entitled to know about other important aspects relating to a liquefied natural gas facility in the Sparrows Point area, such as:

- (1) the effect on recreational and commercial boating and fishing;
- (2) the impacts on the environment, especially on water quality, resulting from the dredging required to locate a liquefied natural gas facility in the area, and the large amounts of contaminated dredged material that will result; and
- (3) the impact on residential property owners in the vicinity of the facility, particularly their ability to retain access to their properties via water; and