

Joint Statement in Opposition to the Proposed LNG Terminal on Outer Brewster Island in The Boston Harbor Islands National Park and Recreation Area.

October 17, 2005

Last month Virginia based AES Battery Rock, LLC announced its intention to buy or lease Outer Brewster Island in the Boston Harbor Islands and convert it into an LNG facility and storage depot. We are all here today in opposition to that plan.

Outer Brewster and the cluster of surrounding islands that make up Calf Bay and Brewster Cove are a spectacular natural and recreational resource, with stunning and historic views of both Graves Light and Boston Light. They are the seaward gateway to the Boston Harbor Islands State Park, and the Boston Harbor Islands national park and recreation area, which includes 34 islands rich in natural and cultural resources.

These outer islands are on a major seasonal migration route for eagles, hawks, osprey, and for Monarch butterflies. They are also the seasonal home to important species of sea and shore birds. The adjacent waters are among the most popular in the park, with great fishing, sailing, diving, lobstering, birding and boating. The bays themselves are rocky and shallow, and comprise critical habitat for juvenile finfish and lobster. Calf Bay is winter home to the Harbor Islands only colony of seals, which often haul out within a few feet of the proposed LNG terminal.

Whale watch vessels, commuter and excursion boats, and other commercial and recreational vessels regularly pass through Hypocrite Channel on their way into and out of Boston Harbor, to the South Shore, Cape Cod and beyond. The proposed plant and the security zone that it would likely require could forever restrict access to this important part of the park to recreational boaters, divers, fisherman, lobsterman, and sailors, as well as the kayakers and canoeists who consider these protected bays the jewels of the park.

Outer Brewster and the surrounding bays and islands are an important part of both the state and national park systems, a primary purpose of which is to "preserve for public use and enjoyment the lands and waters" of the area encompassed by the park. Outer Brewster Island is owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and is protected from development or transfer for non-park uses by Article 97 of the state Constitution.

The approved management plan for the park designates Outer Brewster Island in the Natural Resources Emphasis category, a highly protective category of use and management, consistent with the ecological sensitivity of the site. The

proposed development of an LNG terminal on Outer Brewster Island would be inconsistent with the island's status both as a state park, and as a national park and recreation area.

All of us here today are united in our opposition to that plan. Together we call on decision makers, opinion leaders, our elected officials, and, in particular on the State Legislature, to reject any bill that would allow the Department of Conservation and Recreation to transfer ownership or control of Outer Brewster Island to AES or any other company for use as an LNG terminal.

Following is the list of those who have joined together in opposition to the AES plan to convert Outer Brewster Island into an LNG terminal:

3A Marine Service, Inc.
Bay State Cruise Company and New England Fast Ferry Co.
Boston Harbor Diving Company
City Water Taxi
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Inc.
Harbor Express
Hull Lifesaving Museum
Island Alliance
Island Moorings, LLC
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Massachusetts Bay Lines, Inc.
Massachusetts Boating & Yacht Clubs Association, Inc.
Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association
Massachusetts Marine Trades Association
Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG)
Massachusetts Sierra Club
Odyssey Cruises
Piers Park Sailing Center
Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies
Russo Marine
Safe Waters in Massachusetts (SWIM)
Save The Brewsters
Save the Harbor/Save the Bay
Seaside Environmental Alliance
Surfrider Foundation Massachusetts Chapter