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July 29, 2008

CLNG: Sandia Larger LNG Ships Study Reveals Minimal Public Safety Risk

Washington, D.C. (July 29, 2008) – The Center for Liquefied Natural Gas (CLNG) today offered its strong support for the Department of Energy’s and Sandia National Laboratory’s efforts to improve understanding about potential risks associated with new, larger capacity LNG ships.

“Sandia’s conclusion that the risks associated with larger capacity LNG carriers are not fundamentally different from conventional ships comes as no surprise,” said CLNG president, Bill Cooper. “The LNG industry has gone to great lengths to ensure its ships are safe and secure.”

"During the next several weeks, CLNG and its member companies will closely review the new Sandia study. CLNG is committed to working closely with the Department of Energy, the Coast Guard, and other agencies to ensure continued safe and secure LNG operations.

“Any discussion of LNG shipping safety needs to start with the proven safety record of the LNG shipping industry. LNG has been safely handled in the U.S. over the last 45 years and the industry has maintained an enviable safety record. LNG vessels have traveled more than 128 million miles during that time without major accidents or safety problems, either at port or at sea.”

The 2008 Sandia Study, *Breach and Safety Analysis of Spills Over Water from Large Liquefied Natural Gas Carriers*, assessed the new class of large LNG ships and determined that the risks associated with these larger ships are similar to conventional ships. Although the new ships are up to 80 percent larger than conventional ships, hazard distances are only seven to eight percent greater than with conventional ships. According to the Sandia study “given the location of many proposed offshore facilities, these hazard distances suggest the potential for minimal impact to public safety or property from even a large spill from these larger capacity LNG carriers.”

LNG is natural gas cooled to its liquid form. LNG is non-toxic, odorless, and if spilled evaporates and disperses quickly leaving no residue on land or water. Natural gas is a highly attractive choice for electricity generation because of its efficiency and clean burning qualities. Despite restrictive government policies, the U.S. will continue to require large amounts of natural gas to fuel its industrial and power generation needs. LNG is an environmentally sound and efficient answer to America’s rising demand for clean fuel.

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CLNG is an association of LNG producers, shippers, terminal operators and developers, energy trade associations and natural gas consumers. Its goal is to enhance public education and understanding about LNG by serving as a clearinghouse for LNG information. For more information, visit www.lngfacts.org