

CASE STUDY

Safe Harbor Energy LNG Port

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Safe Harbor Energy LNG Port, Safe Harbor Energy, LLC - New York

BACKGROUND

Safe Harbor Energy is a proposed Deepwater Port to support the transfer, regasification, and send out of liquefied natural gas. Located in New York Bight, the project is proposed to consist of a constructed island; LNG receiving, storage, and regasification facilities; and a subsea pipeline. Normandeau was responsible for addressing issues related to marine resources for the preparation of the application to the U.S. Coast Guard and the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD).

THE CHALLENGE

In order to develop the port Safe Harbor needed to satisfy the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard and MARAD for information regarding impacts to marine resources and operational issues. The port design requires the creation of a new island which raises concerns related to long-term habitat loss and the loss of commercial and recreational fishing areas. The environmental information required to address these regulatory requirements were provided through the available literature and from the collection of site-specific habitat data in the New York Bight. Primary issues included loss of benthic habitat and associated resources; loss of fisheries habitat; loss of shellfish resources in the project footprint; loss of access to areas around the project to fishermen and the effects of displacement of this fishing effort on nearby resources; entrainment impacts on early lifestages of fish; and effects on marine mammals and sea turtles.



THE SOLUTION

Normandeau designed and conducted several surveys to characterize the benthic resources in the project area, including benthic grab sampling, shellfish sampling using a commercial dredger, and a video survey of the seafloor. Fisheries issues were

addressed using existing data from several programs conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service. These data were used to support a detailed Essential Fish Habitat assessment and to conduct Equivalent Adult modeling to address the effects of entrainment on key fish species.

Normandeau characterized the existing resources using a combination of available data and project-specific surveys and analyzed impacts associated with construction and operation of the port as part of an Environmental Report submitted in application to the Maritime Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard under the Deepwater Port Act. Normandeau provided further support to the project during the preparation of the EIS (prepared by a third party under the direction of the U.S. Coast Guard), public meetings, meetings with resource and regulatory agencies, and the permitting process. Normandeau designed and is implementing field surveys to monitor the impacts to ichthyoplankton resources and water quality.

About Normandeau Associates

Normandeau Associates, Inc., an employee-owned company, was founded in 1970 as an environmental consulting firm. Today, Normandeau is considered one of the nation's foremost companies in the field. Our deep and broad background as both environmental and public involvement consultants provides a wealth of knowledge and experience in disciplines ranging from environmental assessment and permitting to stakeholder interviews and facilitation.

From offices nationwide, Normandeau's staff of over 170 employees work closely with clients, regulators, and the public to seek solutions that enhance economic development, meet regulatory requirements, protect and restore natural resources, and improve communities.

Our diverse team includes marine, aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial ecologists; environmental planners; fisheries biologists and limnologists; ornithologists and botanists; soil scientists, geologists, and hydrologists; engineers; statisticians and data processing specialists; report production personnel; and public involvement professionals.

Normandeau Associates, Inc., combines experience, continuous training, hard work, and a rigorous commitment to excellence to deliver the highest possible level of service to our clients.

