

## **Federal regulators take Columbia River LNG terminal off agenda**

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### **Oregon officials, activists and public are pressuring FERC**

Federal energy regulators have decided to delay a vote on the controversial Bradwood Landing liquefied natural gas terminal on the Columbia River.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, facing heavy pressure from Oregon's governor and congressional leaders and an outcry from opponents of the project, said Tuesday that it was striking the project from the commission's agenda for Thursday.

The agency said that before issuing a licensing decision on the terminal, it needed time to review comments on the agency's final environmental impact statement submitted by members of the public and Oregon leaders.

Tamara Young-Allen, a spokeswoman for the agency, said FERC could issue an order on the project at any time and would not necessarily have to wait for the commission's next meeting on Sept 18.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski sent a letter last week to the commission criticizing its final environmental review of the project, issued in June. The governor asked the agency to delay any vote, redo the analysis to take a more comprehensive look at environmental issues, and open the proceeding back up for public comment.

FERC has already ignored the governor's request to redo its draft environmental analysis of the project, so most observers think it unlikely that FERC will agree to that request.

The Bradwood Landing project still needs state permits issued under the Clean Air, Clean Water and Coastal Zone Management acts, and the governor believes no federal license should be issued until those processes are complete.

Bradwood's backer, Houston-based NorthernStar Natural Gas Co., says it remains committed to working with state authorities to address their concerns about the project.

Opponents of the project said it was wise for the agency not to rush to judgment.

"Still, the burden of truly assessing the impact of this project will fall on Oregon," said Dan Serres, an activist with the environmental group Columbia Riverkeeper. "And we are calling on the governor and state agencies to deny permits such as the 15-billion-gallon water right for Bradwood LNG."

--Ted Sickinger, [tedsickinger@news.oregonian.com](mailto:tedsickinger@news.oregonian.com)

