NASA Visible Earth

Community Involvement In Energy Projects

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Mexicali, Baja California

Border Power Plant Working Group

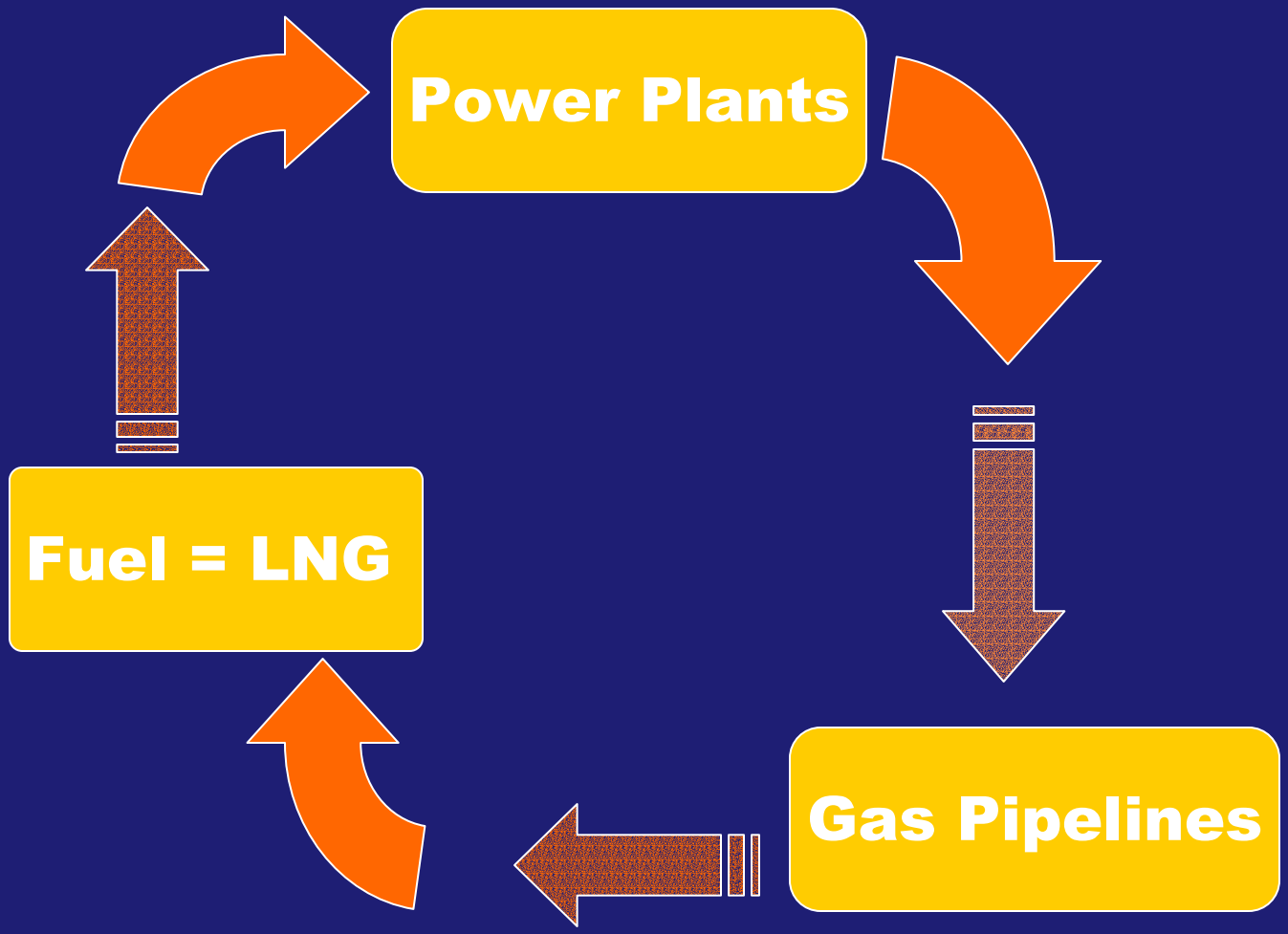
- *Proyecto Fronterizo de Educación Ambiental, Tijuana*
- *Comité Cívico de Divulgación Ecológica, Mexicali*
- *Centro Regional de Estudios Ambientales y Socioeconomicos, Mexicali*
- *UABC, Mexicali*
- *Powers Engineering, San Diego*
- *Border Ecology Project, Bisbee*
- *Sierra Club, San Diego*
- *Imperial County*
- *Calexico*
- *San Luis Río Colorado*
- *Agua Prieta*
- *Rosarito*

1st time history 100% the electricity produced in a power plant Mexico will go to the USA --energy is being transmitted from Mexicali across the border for California's use.

This is a new generation of *Energy Maquiladoras* using Mexico's land, air and water, while benefits cross the border once more.

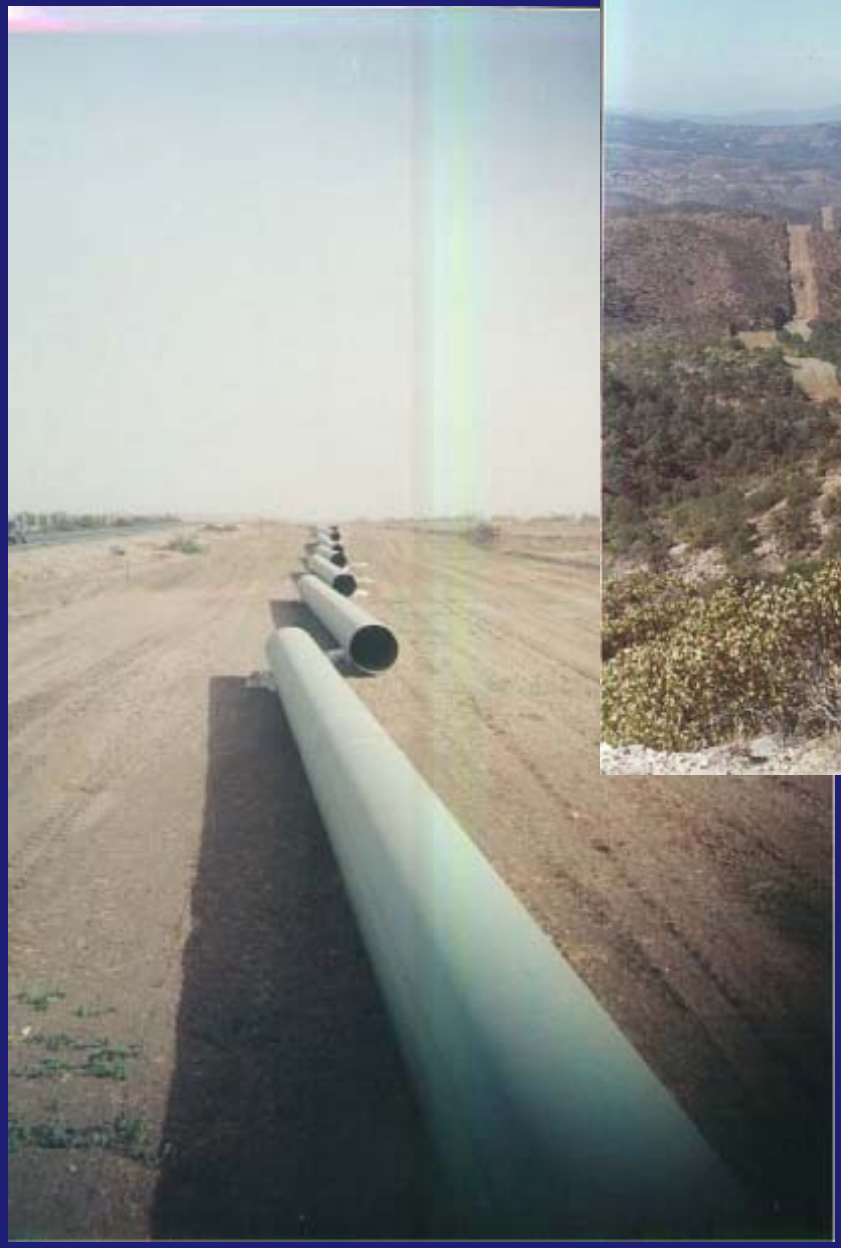
Triumph against the U.S. Dept. of Energy May 2003

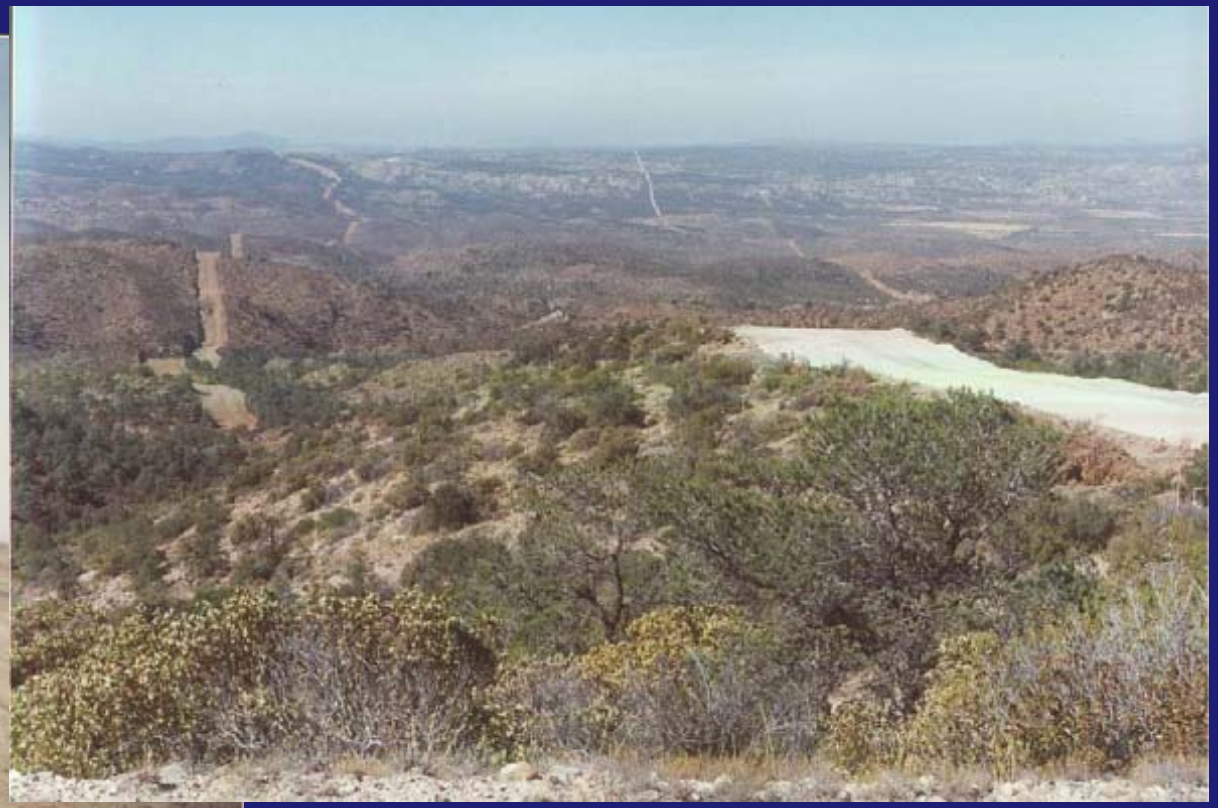
- *The judge ruled that the DOE and Bureau of Land Management violated the National Environmental Policy Act - NEPA by failing to fully analyze the potentially significant impacts of decisions to issue permits for the construction and operation of transmission lines linking power plants in Mexico to the U.S. electric grid.*


Power Plants
Gas Pipelines
Fuel = LNG

Tecate, Baja California

Photos thanks to Mike Wilken of CUNA – Instituto de Culturas Nativas





Sempra Energy's pipeline through archeological site in Tecate, Baja California

Ancient encampments with hundreds of oaks and pinyon trees are gone.

Bedrock mortars used by indigenous peoples were destroyed.

INFORMATION

PARTICIPATION

Success in the Environmental Impact Study process!

Even with these limitations a clear example of the EIS process which allowed public participation were the two **Public Meetings** in January of 2003 to review the Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals proposed for Ensenada, Baja California.

This is a success in environmental law enforcement, regarding the Right to Information and Public Participation, we must celebrate this event in Baja California, as it is one of the first public information meetings carried out in the history of the Mexican Environmental Secretariat (SEMARNAT).

Public Participation Timeline

Jan. 21, 2003 Project file is finally put out for public review at SEMARNAT offices in Baja California. (Four months behind schedule)

Jan. 23, 2003 SEMARNAT calls for Official Public Information Hearing in local newspapers.

Jan. 29 & 30, 2003 Public Information Hearings in Ensenada, Baja California organized by SEMARNAT.

Feb. 12, 2003 SEMARNAT sends Minutes from Hearing via e-mail, received only by persons with internet access.

Feb. 28, 2003 Deadline for sending additional comments, opinions or observations. (No other communications received from SEMARNAT).

Coronado Islands, off the Baja California coast
8 miles from Tijuana.

Costa Azul 14 miles NW of Ensenada, Baja California
Pristine coastal sage grove and archeological site,
next to Bajamar Community.

LNG in Baja California
Environmental and Security Challenges

Onshore regasification terminals:

- *Present unacceptable levels of risk for communities adjacent to the proposed sites.*

- *LNG terminals are incompatible with the existing economic base: tourism and fishing. (Almost $3 billion generated from travel & tourism in 2003.)*

- *Projects presented will use great amounts of seawater for vaporization ~100,000,000 gal/day, with negative effects for the marine life.*

How are LNG projects in Baja California being designed?

Project	Miles to Border	Location	Distance to pop. density > 60 sq.mi.
Sempra/Shell Costa Azul	40	onshore	2.5 *-in litigation-*
Conoco/El Paso Rosarito 2002	15	onshore	> 1 *- denied -*
Chevron Texaco Coronado Islands	8	offshore	8 *-controversial-*
Marathon Playas de Tijuana 2004	3	onshore	> 1 *- denied -*

Note: <u>All</u> of these projects would use seawater to regasify the LNG

LNG Supply Chain

- Gas production fields
  (South America, Pacific Rim)
- LNG liquefaction plant
- LNG tankers
- LNG regasification plant
- Natural Gas Pipeline

Sakhalin Island
Russia

Camisea, Peru
Gas Pipeline Construction
Nahua Kugapakori State Reserve
near Urubamba River

Previously inaccessible
Peruvian Jungle reserve created to protect vulnerable native cultures is damaged, indigenous peoples are experiencing illness for the first time, and some are dying.

Corporations Involved:

Hunt Oil, Halliburton, Tractebel – Belgium, PlusPetrol and Techint—Argentina

Issues from Upstream sources of LNG

Projects	*LNG Source*	*Environmental Issues*
Shell-Sempra or Mitsubishi	Sakhalin,Russia or Australia	600km long pipeline along length of Sakhalin, offshore gas field in key habitat for critically endangered Pacific Gray Whale.
Sempra	Peru (Bolivia)	Ex-Im Bank denied loan guarantee request (8/29/03) citing damage to Peruvian rain forest, Bolivia opposed gas extraction- political upheaval.
Chevron-Texaco, Shell	Barrow Island, Australia	Gorgon Project infrastructure jeopardizes Barrow Island region such an important habitat for unique species it is referred to as “Australia’s Ark”.
Sempra, British Petroleum	Tangguh, Indonesia	Bituni and Berau Bay’s fishing communities, rainforest and mangroves threatened. Livelihood at risk, violence and political unrest rising.

Some conclusions:

- Major ongoing controversy over appropriate worst case accident/event to use for siting onshore LNG regas terminals.
- All onshore regas projects encountering resistance in the Californias
- Offshore terminal with no seawater regas minimizes safety and marine impact concerns.
- Significant distance from coast (> 10 miles) minimizes visual impact concerns.

Bolivian citizens October 2003. *Photos thanks to Jorge Cortes of CEADES, Santa Cruz, Bolivia.*

Resources on the Internet

- www.borderpowerplants.org
- www.pacificenvironment.org
- www.tradewatch.org
- www.lngwatch.com