



Contentious politics in liquefied natural gas facility siting in California

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Motivating Problem

- LNG recently attractive investment in U.S.
- Proposals facing community opposition
- 8 proposals in California (2 withdrawn; 2 denied approvals)
- Demand likely supports 1-2 projects

Research Questions

What factors and processes shape variation in community mobilization around proposals for LNG offload terminals in California?



Points of Departure

- Comparative case approach
 - ❖ More generalizable results than single case
 - ❖ In-depth understanding of context and process of every case
- Moves beyond understanding attitudes to behavior
- Incorporates supporters' and companies' perspectives

Research Approach and Method

- Comparative case study
- In-depth interviews
- Observation
- Content analysis
- Secondary analysis



Status and Findings to Date

Breakdown of opponents' comments about potential risks in letters-to-the-editor

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Safety concerns	26	25	18
Terrorist target	6	11	16
Aesthetics and property values	16	17	10
Environmental Impacts	23	11	21
Health Impacts	16	11	29
Neighborhood quality	13	25	

- Vallejo case complete
 - ❖ Importance of internet
 - ❖ Trust, secrecy, credibility
 - ❖ Tension between rationality and emotion

- Expected completion June 2009