



Suite 600, 1901 North Moore Street  
Arlington, VA 22209-1728  
Phone: (703) 522-0086 • Fax: (703) 522-0548  
Email: hpbamail@hpba.org  
Web Site: www.hpba.org

June 14, 2006

The Honorable Joseph Kelliher  
Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Chairman Kelliher:

The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA), which represents manufacturers, retailers and installers of wood and gas fired equipment, would like to express its serious concerns with the issue of natural gas / LNG interchangeability.

While we are aware that both the American Gas Association (AGA) and the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA) are setting up testing programs for new products utilizing higher levels of LNG, it is our strong contention that it should be the responsibility of FERC to define the quality of the gas in transmission lines and, most importantly, to maintain that quality of future gas to the same standards as is currently being offered. All affected downstream entities and end-users need assurances that FERC will address the interchangeability issue so that natural gas introduced into the integrated interstate pipeline grid clearly meets current and historical guidelines.

Our concerns are several. How will new products and, more importantly, the millions of gas fireplaces, heaters and barbecues now in consumer's homes, react to LNG? What will we do when we find that every gas heater, fireplace and barbecue has to be retuned because of LNG-caused problems? HPBA's products are marketed by how they look, how they heat and how they affect the quality of the food they cook (taste and smell). As far as we are aware, only the heating, and not the cooking, aspect is being looked at in research being done in the U.S.

To the extent that FERC considers proposed LNG facilities while more general action is pending, it is imperative that FERC require, as a condition of certification, that the LNG project sponsor introduce gas into the interstate system that is interchangeable with the historical supply. It is essential that this issue be addressed at the front end of the process in order to avoid adverse impacts to electric and gas markets.

We look forward to working with the Commission as it seeks industry input on a proposed policy for ensuring natural gas interchangeability

Sincerely,

Jack H. Goldman  
President