



June 18, 2021. Insure Our Future campaigners at the Lloyd's of London headquarters in the City of London.

Urgewald and the Insure Our Future Network Demand that:

- Insurers, especially the founding members of the Net Zero Underwriters Alliance, need to immediately cease insuring new and expanding oil and gas projects, this includes new LNG projects like Brunsbüttel.
- Gasunie - the Dutch state-owned energy company planning to build the Brunsbüttel LNG terminal - has been insured by Munich Re, Axa, HDI, Talanx, Zurich, AIG Europe, SCOR, Allianz, Chubb and Liberty Mutual. Insurers need to not only exclude new expansion projects from underwriting but investigate the role companies play in their realization. Insurers need to phase out insurance for oil and gas companies, in line with a 1,5°C pathway.
- Insurers need to divest all assets from oil and gas companies that are not aligned with 1,5°C.



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Swinoujście LNG facility in Poland. @Shutterstock_MikeMareen

LNG Brunsbüttel

LNG Brunsbüttel is a planned Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility that will import fracked gas from the US and other major importers. The German LNG joint venture, consisting of Gasunie, Vopak LNG and Oiltanking GmbH, is still waiting for a final investment decision. It has already been delayed by three years due to civil society lawsuits, environmental campaigns and difficult market conditions. RWE, Europe's biggest CO2 emitter in 2017, intends to take over most of the terminal's capacity once it is finished.





The climate movement is now taking up gas as a key topic for protests. Ende Gelände protested this summer against the planned Brunsbüttel LNG Terminal by occupying a part of the area for a few days in July 2021.

Credit: Pay Numrich



A fracking site being fracked near Wasco in California's Central Valley, USA. Chemicals from the fracking process poison the groundwater and lead to birth defects in people and animals that live close-by.

Credit: Ashley Cooper / Alamy

LNG Could be Worse or Just as Bad as Coal

LNG is responsible for methane emissions from production, transport, liquefaction, regasification and injection into the gas grid. When the gas is finally burned it additionally produces CO₂ emissions. The liquefaction alone consumes around 10-25% of the energy content of fossil gas. This means LNG has a higher carbon cost than pipeline gas. According to calculations presented to the Irish Climate Change Committee, US LNG imports to Ireland would have a **44% higher climate impact than coal**. For imports to Germany the balance is likely to be similar.

Fossil gas is made of methane (75-99%) and when burnt produces CO₂; both types of emissions are major contributors to the climate crisis. Since it emits less CO₂ than coal when burned, fossil gas was long considered a more climate-friendly alternative. However, when methane leaks are taken into account, the impact on the climate is huge.

The IPCC attributed 0.5°C of current global warming (around 40%) to methane emissions.

LNG Investments Will Likely Result in Stranded Assets

The project has a 30–50 year life span. This is the same timeframe we have to decarbonize. This either indicates that climate targets cannot be kept, or that this will be a huge stranded asset.

LNG Brunsbüttel Will Import Fracked Gas from the US

Fracking is a method of extracting oil and fossil gas that is particularly harmful to the climate and the environment. High-pressure fluid is injected into shale rock to crack them open and release oil and gas. This method consumes massive amounts of water and releases toxic chemicals. The chemicals poison the groundwater and lead to birth defects in people and animals that live close-by. The hydraulic fracturing process itself, the fluid movement underground, and the wastewater disposal can trigger earthquakes.

Fracking releases huge amounts of methane. According to calculations by professor Howarth of Cornell University, shale gas production in North America may have contributed to more than half of the global increase in emissions from fossil fuels globally.

Any Accident at LNG Brunsbüttel Could Be Disastrous

The fracked gas import terminal in Brunsbüttel will be built near existing critical infrastructure: a former nuclear power plant, a current nuclear waste storage facility and a chemical park. The evacuation radius in case of emergency around these buildings is large enough to engulf the project build site, docks and service buildings. Deutsche Umwelthilfe has provided a legal opinion showing that an LNG terminal cannot be approved at the planned location, throwing the Final Investment Decision into turmoil once again.