

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1095

(Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery
County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Finance

**Prince George's County - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
Commission - Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities - Approval Limitations
PG/MC 111-06**

This bill provides that a three-fourths majority vote of the Prince George's County District Council is required to approve a special exception to construct or operate a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility within the county.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill's changes are procedural in nature and should not materially impact Prince George's County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Prince George's County Council sits as the Prince George's County District Council for the area of the regional district within Prince George's County. Generally, the district council may adopt by ordinance and amend the text of the zoning ordinance, and may adopt and amend zoning maps by resolution or ordinance for a number of zoning actions, including land use, and the location and uses of buildings.

Certain decisions require a two-thirds majority vote. A three-fourths majority vote of the district council is required to approve a special exception to construct or operate a rubble landfill in the county.

Background: According to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), LNG is a natural gas that has been supercooled to a liquid at -260°F, thus reducing its volume more than 600 times. LNG is stored at more than 100 facilities in the United States. According to FERC, LNG is stored in double-walled, insulated tanks designed to prevent any gas from escaping. In addition to the double-walled tank, FERC reports all new LNG facilities are required to have a dike or impounding wall surrounding the facility which would be capable of containing the tank's volume. In a news release, Washington Gas reports that it has plans to build a LNG storage facility on the grounds of its Chillum (Prince George's County) gas storage facility.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Maryland Department of the Environment, Washington Gas, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

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