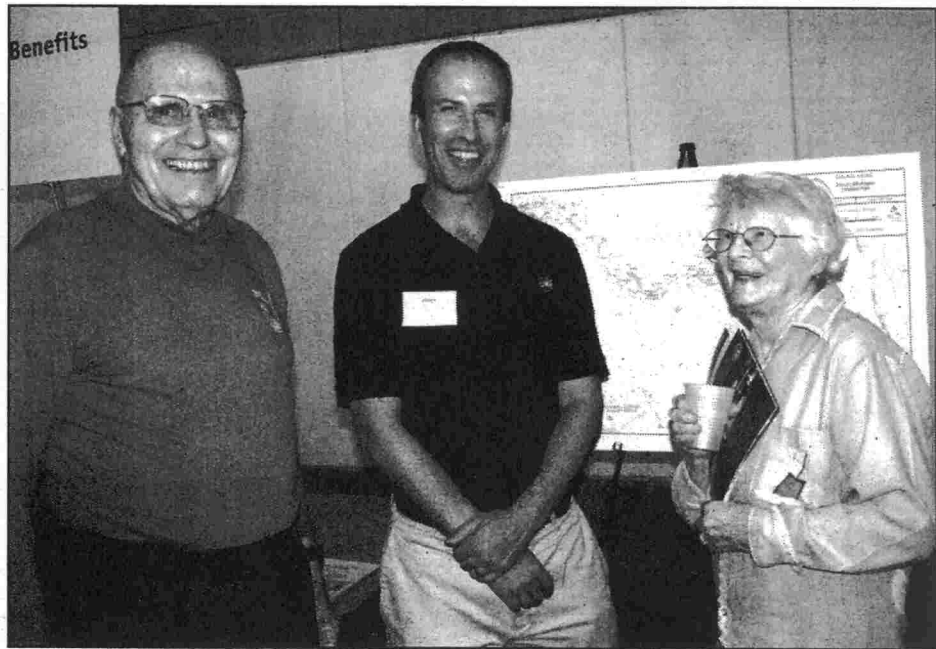


Calais Residents Impressed With Calais LNG Meeting

By: Carol-Ann Nicholson
 CALAIS - Tuesday, July 29, was an evening organized to give people from Calais and surrounding areas the opportunity to learn about Calais LNG, the liquefied natural gas project that includes a receiving terminal and storage facility that promoters hope to develop on the outskirts of Calais, near Red Beach and St. Croix Island.

The open house took place at the Washington County Community College Gymnasium, from 6-8 p.m. It was

hosted by Calais LNG but the information session is something which is required by FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) as part of the permitting process. Although there is no requirement that the federal agency attend such sessions, members of FERC did attend on Tuesday, perhaps because some people wondered why they were not present at the 'open houses' hosted by the other two proposed LNG projects, Quoddy Bay LNG at Pleasant Point and Downeast LNG at Rob-



Bob and Irma Howbrigg, Red Beach, talk to Tobey Williamson of Calais LNG at the 'open house' held at the Washington County Community College on Tuesday, July 29. The Howbriggs were impressed with the session and the information presented by Calais LNG and they had no problem with LNG oil tankers passing in the river. (Carol-Ann Nicholson photo)

binston.

Calais LNG Project Development Director Ian Emery says the whole purpose of the open house is to give the public the chance to learn about the proposed construction and operation of the LNG receiving terminal, the storage facility and the 20.5 mile-long pipeline proposed to go from the terminal to the regional gas transmission line operated

by Maritimes & Northeast Gas Pipeline in Baileyville.

The meeting, which was quite informal, was very interesting and informative.

The developers, which includes Art Gelber and Emery, assembled teams that covered each key area of the project, and the concerns which might be generated. This included the environment, the project purpose and benefits, safety and security, LNG vessel designs and routes, the site plan with turning basin and bathymetry, and the pipeline route.

The studies concerned included the impacts on the environment, archaeology, geology and culture.

This was an evening that was handled professionally and the material presented was very good, particularly the explanations and graphics.

More than 140 people walked through the open house during the evening and most had complementary and positive things to say about the project.

Bob and Irma Howbrigg, Red Beach, said they now favored the project. "Our home overlooks St. Croix Island and I feel very good about this," said Irma. "Actually, I'm looking forward to watching the tankers come up the St. Croix River," said Bob. "I hope and feel this will bring business to the area."

Company official Art Gelber was the only one to speak during the evening and he did so briefly. He welcomed people and introduced those from the company who were at the open house. He also noted the presence of the representatives from FERC, the Coast Guard,

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MDOT, the Army Corps of Engineers, the State Planning Office.

"We want you to be educat-

ed about the project. We want you to be here to see what we are doing. We want to explain what is going on and the opportunities this will make available for Calais," he said.

The property where the terminal would be located consists of about 330 acres, with approximately 2,800 feet of water frontage on the St. Croix

River. The LNG terminal would be constructed on about 128 acres on the east side of US Route 1. There would be a single LNG carrier berth located in deep water and connected to land by a pier about 1,000 feet in length.

Although most of the individuals touring the open house were positive about the project, there were some who pointed out it was their feeling that the

Canadian government would continue to deny use of its waters to the huge LNG tankers.

"People don't seem to get it that our economy in Canada is based on the environment and that what happens with this is that they disrupt our income with no net gain. Canada's position on navigational safety is not viewed seriously," says Larry Lack of St. Andrews who attended the open house.