**JOUR 311 Midterm March 15, 2010**

**NAME:** Stephanie Hemmens

1. **A proposal to build a liquid natural gas terminal (LNG) in the Port of Long Beach has been stirring controversy recently. You have received an assignment to research this issue for your local paper (think Press-Telegram). You must prepare a detailed report for your editor with a proposed strategy for the LNG terminal coverage. In as much detail as needed, do the following:**
2. **Research online (using various news databases and other sources) and report what is the essence of the argument about building an LNG terminal (outline specific pros and cons of having such a terminal). Who are the main players on different sides of this issue? Use proper attribution and provide information about your sources (databases, web sites, etc.) in the text (no attached references).**

The $800 million project was sponsored by Mitsubishi. Sound Energy Solutions (SES) filed for approval, but some state and local officials view it as a threat to the city’s population and will impact the environment. Local residents oppose the project, fearing that the terminal could be a terrorist target or suffer an explosion. Long Beach harbor commissioners ended an environmental review on the project. Houston’s ConocoPhillips withdrew as a partner in the project. The trading house planned to build moorages for LNG carriers, regasification facilities, and storage tanks at the Port of Long Beach.

There will be several hundred alternative-fuel trucks powered by natural gas, propane, bio-diesel and electricity. Under terms of a deal, companies registered with the port would get $80,000 to help purchase a new LNG rig, which can cost up to $200,000 off the lot. Those interested in cleaner technology - rigs powered solely by lithium batteries - would have 80 percent of the cost covered. In return, the companies must sign an agreement with the ports promising to use the trucks for local service in coming years.

The facility would be capable of supplying clean-burning vehicle-grade LNG to the local transportation market, including terminal tractors in the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to assist in improving the port-area air quality. The terminal would meet growing demand for natural gas around the world.

Shippers say Columbia Gas disregards their rights through changes to tariff. *Inside F.E.R.C.'s Gas Market Report.* Retrieved March 15, 2010 in Lexis-Nexis database.

Mitsubishi drops California LNG plan, eyes Alaska. *Oil and Gas Journal*. Retrieved March 15, 2010 in Lexis-Nexis database.

**On the Waterfront: Clean Truck speeds ahead. (August 17, 2009). *Press-Telegram*. Retrieved March 15, 2010 in ProQuest database.**

ConocoPhillips, Mitsubishi plan LNG terminal for Long Beach. (May 17, 2005). *Los Angeles Business*. Retrieved March 15, 2010 from http://losangeles.bizjournals.com/losangeles/stories/2005/05/16/daily22.html.

1. **Identify (by name and/or affiliation) the most likely people to be interviewed for such a story.**

Pro:

* Mitsubishi Corp. and Sound Energy Solutions (SES): Thomas E. Giles, Project Developer
* ConocoPhillips: James Mulva, Chairman and CEO

Con:

* state and local officials: Long Beach City Attorney Robert Shannon
* harbor commissioners: Nick Sramek, Commission President
1. **Outline (in much detail!) how to prepare and conduct for your interviews. Draft a starter set of questions. Explain your interview strategy with respect to the most important sources – i.e., what to do if they refuse to answer a particular question. Where do you expect to have an argument with them? Be creative and reasoned!**

Research both sides of the issue:

Who is for the project?

Who is against the project?

Find contacts for interviews about the issue.

Research their background.

Call them or email them.

Set up appointments for interviews.

Questions:

What will be the long-term effect of this project?

How much is it going to cost?

How should tax-payers prepare for it?

What are the pros?

What are the cons?

How do you see the future of Long Beach?

When will the project be finished?

If my interviewees refuse to answer a question, I will move on to the next question, if they don’t cooperate, especially if the information should not be revealed to the public. I expect to have an argument with them when discussing their viewpoints on the issue, but I won’t go overboard.