

Dear Japan, oil companies lied to you about “LNG”

We are “Oilfield Witness,” an environmental organization based in Texas, United States. We document pollution from the oil and gas industry using an Optical Gas Imaging (OGI) camera. We have studied and documented pollution from the oil and gas industry for over 25 years. We come from the U.S. to share this message with the Japanese people, banks, and government.

1. The climate crisis is worsening.

The U.S. is producing more oil and gas than any country in history and leads the world in LNG (liquefied natural gas) exports. In the Permian Basin, companies extract around 6 million barrels of oil per day. Oilfield Witness’ years of documentation shows that when companies produce oil, they necessarily emit pollutants like methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas that worsens the climate crisis. The industry has a long history—going back to the 1950s—of lying about the climate crisis and their pollution[1]. Much of the pollution from oil and gas is invisible so they can deny it exists and only technology like our Optical Gas Imaging camera can show if they are lying. One thing is certain: More drilling = more climate destruction.



2. The fossil fuel industry’s promise of “clean LNG” is false.

Climate science tells us that we must end the extraction of oil and gas to prevent catastrophic impacts. Fossil fuel companies want to continue profiting from drilling for oil and gas. To protect their assets, they have launched a campaign to convince governments that LNG is a climate solution[2] and said exporting LNG is the “The biggest green initiative on the planet.” This is a lie. “Overall, the greenhouse gas footprint for LNG as a fuel source is 33% greater than for coal,” Dr. Robert Howarth[3]. Japan is a victim of this false promise. Japanese governments and banks finance LNG projects in the United States and globally.



Vessels like this one in the Louisiana Gulf Coast carry polluting LNG from the US to Japan.

3. LNG makes people sick

Every molecule of LNG starts with a hole in the ground. Gas that is liquified for LNG is drilled from oilfields like the Permian Basin in the US. During the process of extraction, processing and transportation, companies also emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which greatly harm human health[4]. These include the carcinogens benzene and formaldehyde. LNG harms communities in the Permian, Gulf Coast, and Japan who are all negatively impacted by extraction, processing, and transportation of this toxic gas.

Solution: Japan must end the financing of LNG

Japanese governments and banks should end their support for LNG and new gas production projects. Japan should invest in and transition to clean renewable energy like solar and wind. LNG is a false solution. Be part of an international effort for climate justice!

Citations:

- [1] “Defense, Denial, and Disinformation: Uncovering the Oil Industry’s Early Knowledge of Climate Change.” Common Home. Charlotte Taylor
- [2] “Behind the Push to Re-brand LNG as “Green.” Drilled. Amy Westervelt, Andy Rowell.
- [3] “The Greenhouse Gas Footprint of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Exported from the United States.” Cornell University. Robert W. Howarth.
- [4] “Emissions of volatile organic compounds from crude oil processing – Global emission inventory and environmental release.” Hamid Rajabi, et al.

More information:

SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION: "Dear Japan, they lied to you about LNG being clean"

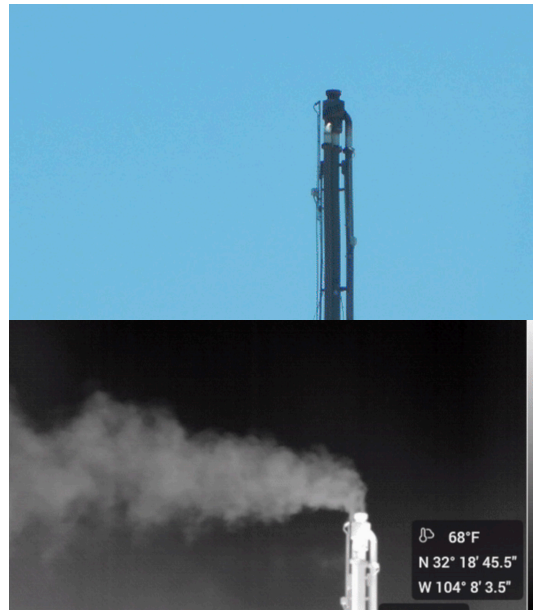
This slideshow presentation by Sharon Wilson describes the true climate and health impacts of LNG. The presentation includes videos of Optical Gas Imaging (OGI) demonstrating methane and VOC pollution from oil and gas infrastructure. bit.ly

VIDEO: "LNG harms shrimpers -- camera visualizes pollution"

Oilfield Witness visits members of "Fishermen Involved with Sustaining Our Heritage" (FISH) on their shrimp boat in the Gulf Coast of Louisiana. Tad Theriot, a FISH member, shares testimony on how Venture Global's Calcasieu Pass LNG export facility (CP1) has impacted their livelihood as shrimpers. bit.ly/shrimperLNG

VIDEO: "Faces of Fracking"

This series profiles individuals whose lives have been deeply and negatively affected by fracking operations in Arlington, Texas. This shines a light on the severe human toll of methane gas extraction in urban environments. bit.ly/4haPRMa



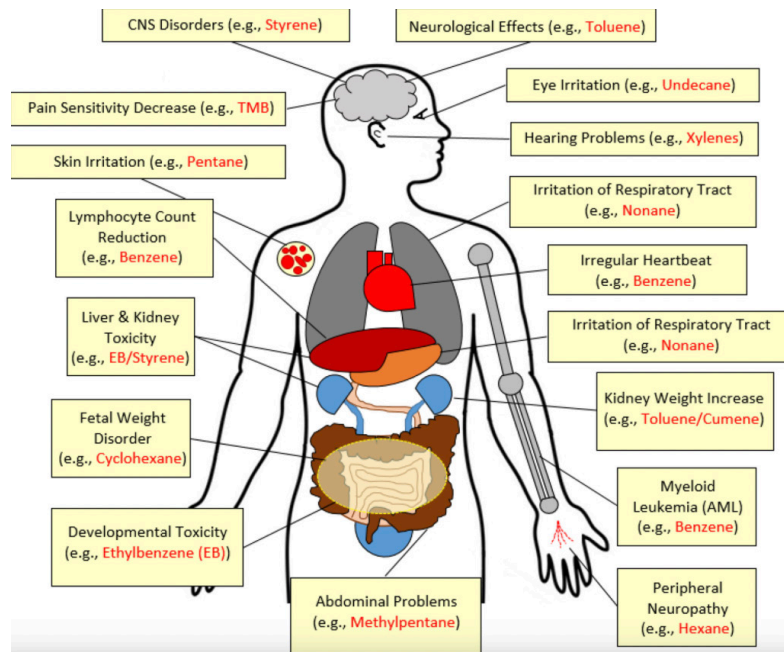
OPTICAL GAS IMAGING (OGI)

This image demonstrates an "unlit flare"--a common practice in the oilfields in which companies fail to properly combust/burn the gas. The result is unmitigated venting of methane. The image on the top is what the unlit flare looks like to the human eye. On the bottom, Optical Gas Imaging (OGI) visualizes the methane emissions.



OIL & GAS FIELDNOTES

This document summarizes evidence on how oil and gas pollution occurs and why "technology fixes" are not working. The document includes pollution from upstream, midstream and downstream sources of emissions. bit.ly/fieldnotesofw



OIL & GAS POLLUTION HARMS HEALTH

This image demonstrates how volatile organic compounds (VOCs) impact human health. VOC emissions are common at all stages of oil and gas extraction, processing, and transportation. Source of study here: bit.ly/3PQPeVn



Sharon Wilson, Executive Director of Oilfield Witness uses Optical Gas Imaging (OGI) camera.