
Commerce OKs AES LNG Project, Blocks Weaver's Cove

BY JOHNATHAN RICKMAN

In the first of two rulings on contentious liquefied natural gas terminal projects, Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said Thursday that AES Corp.'s proposed Sparrows Point project is needed to meet rising natural gas demand in the Mid-Atlantic region, denying an attempt by Maryland to block the proposal.

Citing research by Concentric Energy Advisors, a Marlborough, Mass.-based consulting firm, Gutierrez said "growing demand for natural gas" in the Mid-Atlantic region "is estimated to rise substantially through 2020" and that the project would provide "significant additional capacity," in the rapidly growing area.