

GAS NO ES SOLUCIÓN

WHERE DOES SPANISH FOSSIL
GAS COME FROM? PART 2

UNITED STATES



Title: Where does spanish fossil gas come from? Part 2: United States

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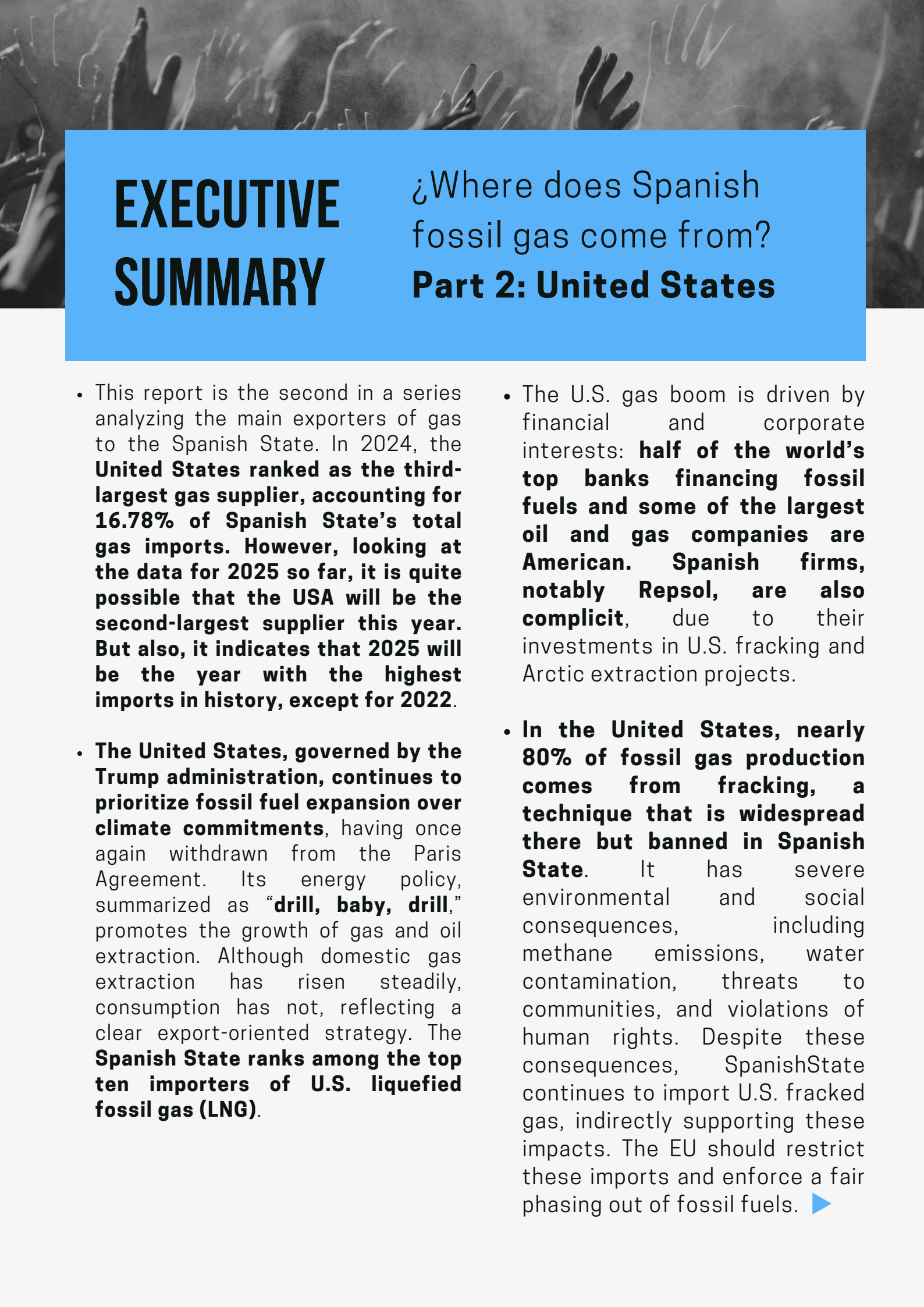
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A black and white photograph of many hands raised in the air, suggesting a crowd or a protest, serves as the background for the top half of the page.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

¿Where does Spanish fossil gas come from? Part 2: United States

- This report is the second in a series analyzing the main exporters of gas to the Spanish State. In 2024, the **United States ranked as the third-largest gas supplier, accounting for 16.78% of Spanish State's total gas imports. However, looking at the data for 2025 so far, it is quite possible that the USA will be the second-largest supplier this year. But also, it indicates that 2025 will be the year with the highest imports in history, except for 2022.**
- **The United States, governed by the Trump administration, continues to prioritize fossil fuel expansion over climate commitments,** having once again withdrawn from the Paris Agreement. Its energy policy, summarized as “**drill, baby, drill,**” promotes the growth of gas and oil extraction. Although domestic gas extraction has risen steadily, consumption has not, reflecting a clear export-oriented strategy. **The Spanish State ranks among the top ten importers of U.S. liquefied fossil gas (LNG).**
- The U.S. gas boom is driven by financial and corporate interests: **half of the world's top banks financing fossil fuels and some of the largest oil and gas companies are American. Spanish firms, notably Repsol, are also complicit,** due to their investments in U.S. fracking and Arctic extraction projects.
- **In the United States, nearly 80% of fossil gas production comes from fracking, a technique that is widespread there but banned in Spanish State.** It has severe environmental and social consequences, including methane emissions, water contamination, threats to communities, and violations of human rights. Despite these consequences, Spanish State continues to import U.S. fracked gas, indirectly supporting these impacts. The EU should restrict these imports and enforce a fair phasing out of fossil fuels. ►

- **More than 94% of the gas imported by the Spanish State from the U.S. in 2024 originated from LNG terminals on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico** (Louisiana and Texas). Most of these facilities, Cameron LNG, Calcasieu Pass LNG, Corpus Christi LNG, and Freeport LNG, are **located near low-income, minority communities with disproportionately high poverty and health risks**. Residents experience elevated rates of cancer, asthma, and other pollution-related illnesses, while local ecosystems suffer extensive degradation. **Despite extracting vast amounts of gas, electricity costs remain high in these states.**
- The **Freeport, Corpus Christi, Cameron, and Cameron Calcasieu Pass LNG plants produce severe environmental and social impacts**, including repeated air quality violations, explosions, and chronic toxic emissions. **Regulatory leniency and corporate tax exemptions perpetuate environmental injustice while delivering minimal economic benefits to nearby residents.**
- Looking forward, **numerous LNG expansion projects are underway in the Gulf of Mexico**, often accompanied by carbon capture and storage (CCS) initiatives that function largely as **greenwashing**.
- Meanwhile, **frontline communities are organizing resistance through grassroots movements** such as the Texas Campaign for the Environment, Better Brazoria, the Sierra Club, Freeport Haven, and Chispa Texas. These groups challenge corporate and political power, defend public health, and demand environmental justice in regions disproportionately burdened by the fossil fuel industry.



WHAT ABOUT THE US?

The United States of America is located in North America and operates as a federal republic composed of 50 states, a federal district (Washington, D.C.), and several major territories and minor islands (political units in association with the US), such as Puerto Rico, where a movement for independence and against US colonialism can be highlighted. The U.S. is also inhabited by indigenous peoples. Its law recognizes Tribal Nations as sovereign entities that possess their own powers of self-government while still being subject to federal authority.

Currently, the US is governed by the **Trump administration**. This administration's climate commitments are conspicuous for their absence. After coming to power, one of its first decisions was to **abandon the Paris Agreement**, just as it had done in Trump's previous term.

The Trump administration's **climate policy** can be summed up in the slogan "**drill, baby, drill.**" The United States uses techniques such as **fracking**, which is banned in Spanish State. These policies are slowing the development of solar and wind energy, which are necessary for a just transition. Meanwhile, the US strategy is to continue to blame China for emitting more than the US, without taking into account per capita emissions and ignoring its own historical responsibility after decades and decades of greenhouse gas emissions.



IMPORTACIONES TOTALES DE GN + GNL A ESPAÑA POR AÑO DESDE ESTADOS UNIDOS (2004-2024)

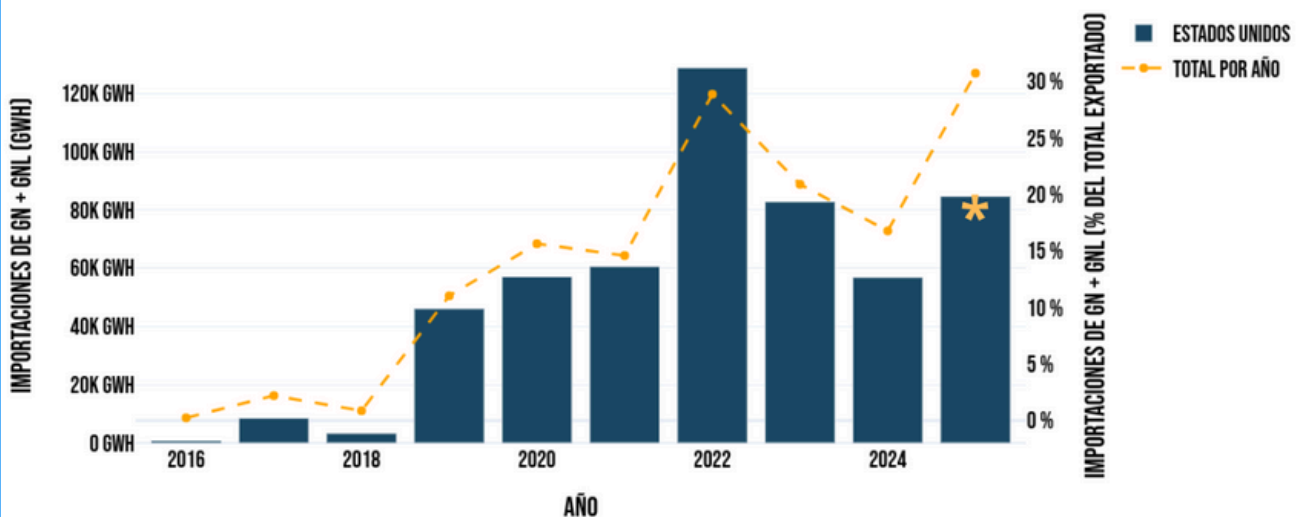
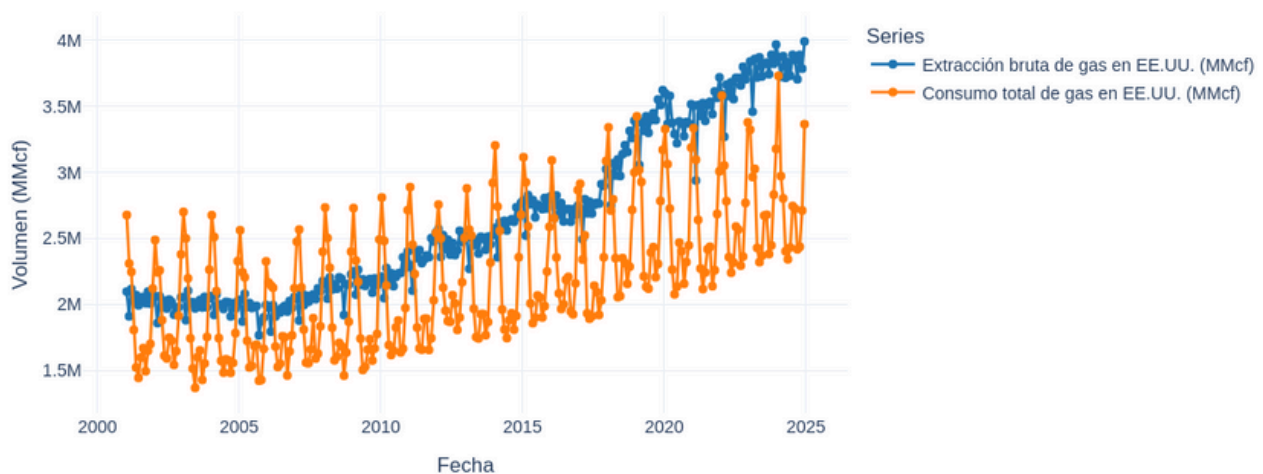


FIGURE 1. TOTAL US GAS, NG ("NATURAL" GAS) + LNG (LIQUEFIED "NATURAL" GAS), IMPORTS TO SPANISH STATE BY YEAR FROM THE US (2004-2025). TOTAL IMPORTS IN BARS AND PERCENTAGE OF THE IMPORTS (GAS IMPORTED FROM US BY SPANISH STATE * 100 / TOTAL GAS IMPORTED BY SPANISH STATE) IN LINES. DATA: [CORES](#). SOURCE: RED GAS NO ES SOLUCIÓN. *FOR 2025, DATA IS ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH SEPTEMBER.

If we look at the country's trade balance, we find that in 2023 the top **US exports** were crude and refined petroleum, petroleum gas, cars, and gas turbines. During the same year, the top **US imports included** cars, crude petroleum, telephones, computers, and motor vehicles (parts and accessories). **This information highlights the importance of fossil fuel extraction in this country's economy.** Moreover, the joint statement of the **US-EU Trade Deal**, which Trump's tariff policy agreement imposed on the European Union, includes a significant energy purchase component. The EU has committed to spending \$750 billion annually on US energy, which means **tripling the energy imports**.

Focusing on fossil gas, it is interesting to note that the **US fossil gas gross withdrawals have been rising in recent** years, but the total consumption has not been rising at the same rate (Figure 2), which could indicate that there is an interest in extracting fossil gas for export.

Datos sobre el gas fósil en EE.UU. (Extracción bruta frente al Consumo total (MMcf))



So, where does the gas go? Via pipeline it goes to Canada (997k MMcf (but Canada exports way more than it imports) and Mexico (2343k MMcf), and it is distributed via LNG, as can be observed in Figure 3 in 2024. **The Spanish State is among the 10 largest importers of LNG from the U.S.**

Who is benefiting from this? Obviously, the beneficiaries are large energy companies (**some of the largest oil and gas companies are from the United States**), but not only them. **Banks** also support this system that jeopardizes climate stability. If we look at which banks finance fossil fuels the most, we find that **half of the twelve most polluting banks are American**. Thus, the country's private investment is perfectly aligned with its public policies (Figure 4).

This business is also supported by **Spanish companies** that have **contracts for US LNG**, such as Naturgy, Endesa, or Repsol, and of course by banks such as Santander, La Caixa, or BBVA.

FIGURE 2. US FOSSIL GAS DATA (GROSS WITHDRAWALS VS TOTAL CONSUMPTION). DATA: EIA. SOURCE: RED GAS NO ES SOLUCIÓN.

(Exportaciones - Reexportaciones) de GNL de EE.UU. por país en 2024

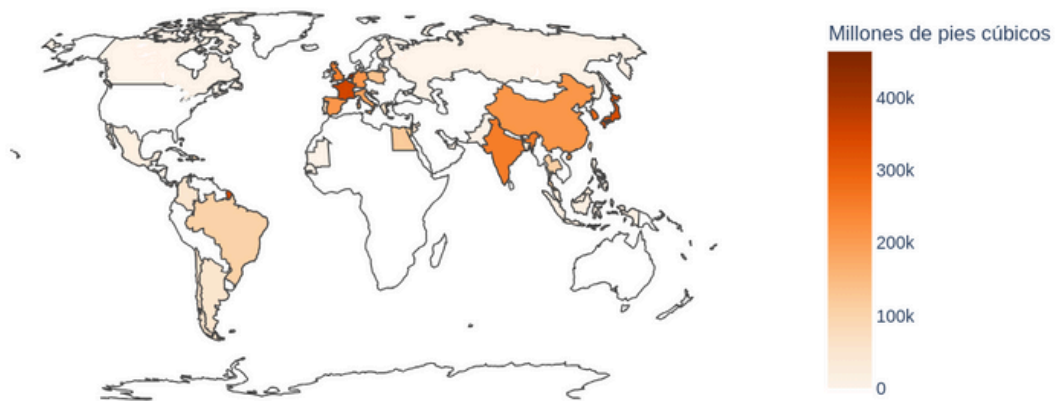


FIGURE 3. U.S. LNG (EXPORTS - RE-EXPORTS) BY COUNTRY IN 2024. DATA: [EIA](#). SOURCE: RED GAS NO ES SOLUCIÓN.

The Dirty Dozen

The Biggest Fossil Fuel Financiers Since 2021

Top 12 banks financing fossil fuels globally, 2021-2024.

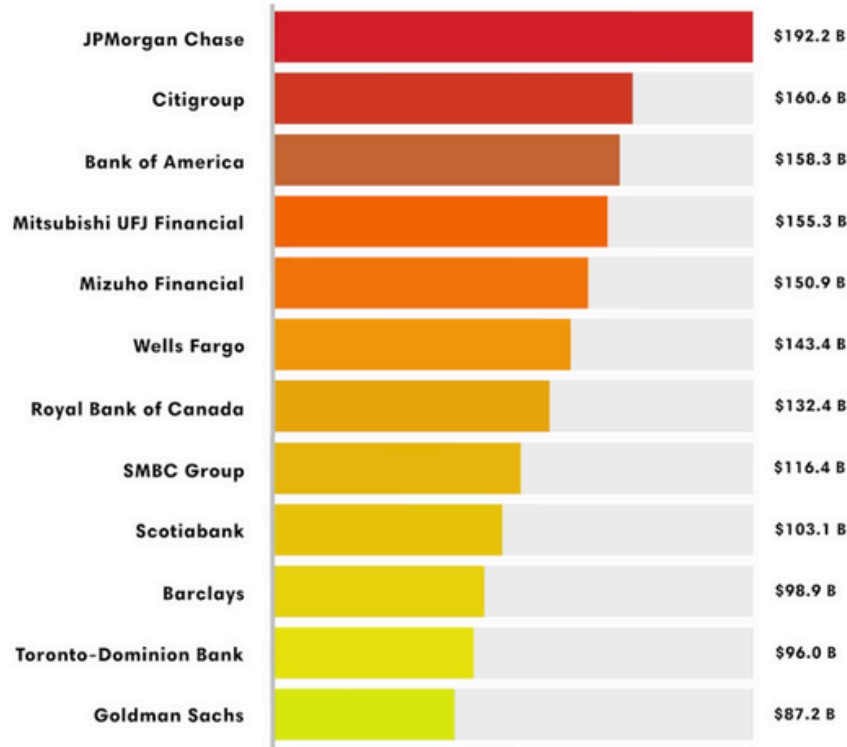
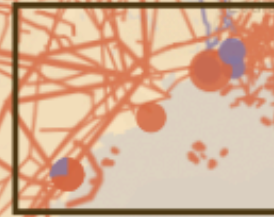


FIGURE 4. THE 12 LARGEST BANKS FINANCING FOSSIL FUELS GLOBALLY BETWEEN 2021 AND 2024. SOURCE: [BANKING ON CLIMATE CHAOS](#).

ZOOM: THE GULF OF MEXICO

FIGURE 5. GLOBAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE TRACKER, OPERATING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN RED AND IN CONSTRUCTION ONES IN BLUE. SOURCE: GLOBAL ENERGY MONITOR.



The US gas network is quite extensive. In this regard, it is especially interesting to **map where the infrastructure is that is helping the LNG to travel from the US to Spanish State**. The gas comes from 7 LNG terminals located on the east coast of the USA; 5 of the 7 terminals are located in Louisiana or Texas in the Gulf of Mexico. They can be seen outlined in black in Figure 6.

Furthermore, as Figure 7 shows, in 2024, **more than 94% of the fossil gas that arrived in Spanish State came from terminals located in the Gulf of Mexico, such as Cameron and Cameron Calcasieu Pass LNG, Freeport LNG, and Corpus Christi LNG**. This leads us to want to check what is happening in these communities due to the fossil fuel industry.

Who lives in these cities? The mostly BIPOC residents in the Corpus Christi and Freeport. Areas near Freeport LNG face much higher family poverty rates than state and national averages, and nearly one-third of adults lack a high school diploma. Cameron LNG, farther from nearby communities, shows a different pattern.

What are the impacts of living in these areas? Areas near LNG facilities have above the state median rates for cancer, asthma, and obesity in adults. Furthermore, ironically, although Louisiana and Texas are the main sources of gas extraction for electricity in the United States, the costs of supplying energy to households remain high in these two states.

We call this environmental racism. It is no coincidence that BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of color) communities are located next to pollution sources such as major roadways, toxic waste sites, landfills, and chemical plants; it is the environmental side of the systemic racism they experience.

And what happens to the environment? The effects of LNG facilities on the environment involve soil, vegetation, water, wetlands, wildlife, fisheries, species with special status, ecosystem services, and air quality.

Exportaciones de GNL a España por terminal estadounidense (2016–2024)

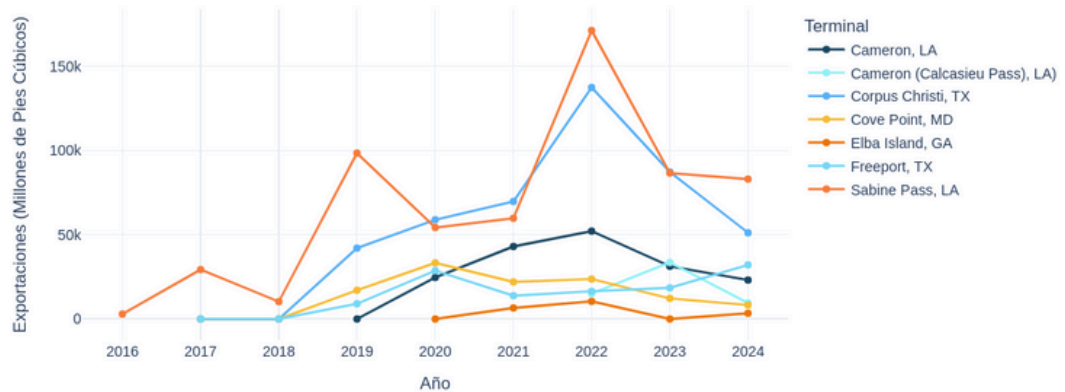


FIGURA 6. EXPORTACIONES DE GNL AL ESTADO ESPAÑOL POR TERMINAL ESTADOUNIDENSE ENTRE 2016 Y 2024. DATOS: [EIA](#). FUENTE: RED GAS NO ES SOLUCIÓN.

How do large companies achieve this? They talk about creating local jobs and opportunities, but good local jobs rarely materialize. Instead, local economies suffer from the destruction of ecosystems; for example, industrial tax exemptions have harmed local trade.

What happens in a climate change scenario? LNG facilities become highly vulnerable to extreme weather, leading to leaks, explosions, shutdowns, and massive releases of pollution.

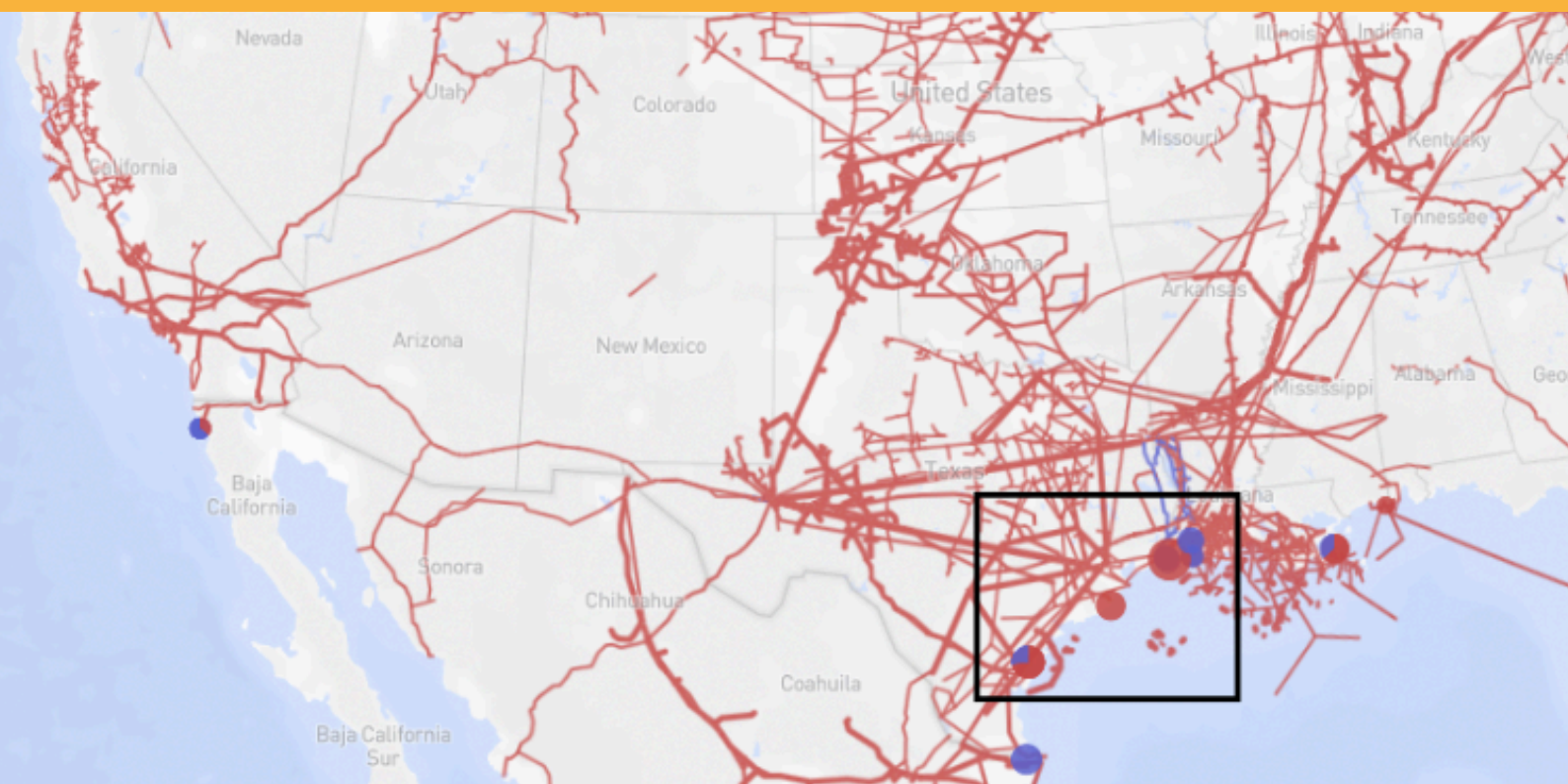
What is happening in each facility?

Freeport stands out for its higher-than-average lifetime cancer risks and respiratory hazards from toxic air pollutants, and **Texas regulators have fined the facility for violating state air pollution limits** between 2019 and 2021. Moreover, in 2023, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality stated that the LNG exporter emitted excessive levels of several pollutants.

These regulatory issues mirror the plant's ongoing operational problems, including **recurring shutdowns in 2024 and a major fire in 2022**. However, the harm extends beyond pollution: as industrial activity expands, **residents in Freeport have also faced land expropriations near the port**, underscoring how fossil fuel profits are routinely prioritized over people and the environment.

The case of **Corpus Christi** is also of particular concern. Cheniere Energy, the owner of Corpus Christi LNG, **has violated state air pollution limits around 300 times since its launch in 2018**. In light of this situation, the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has doubled the pollution limits from what they were when Corpus Christi Liquefaction opened**, siding with the fossil fuel industry. As if that weren't enough, the **gas turbines** installed there were deemed unsafe by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) twenty years ago, but Cheniere decided to use them anyway. In 2023, the EPA began ordering the retirement of gas turbines, at which time a test conducted by a Cheniere-controlled air monitor showed “acceptable” levels of toxic pollution, allowing operations to continue.

Lastly, Cameron and Cameron Calcasieu Pass LNG have faced issues related to **pollution reporting, their operations, and the risks they pose to nearby communities**. Consistent flaring at Venture Global's Calcasieu Pass facility contradicts the company's failure to submit required reports to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Flaring at liquefaction plants is intended only as an emergency measure, and its frequent use strongly **suggests that Venture Global is experiencing operational problems that it is not disclosing to regulators**.



WHAT ABOUT FRACKING?

It is also essential to review how this gas is extracted. **Approximately 80% of the US gas came from fracking in 2023.** Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, involves injecting large amounts of water, sand, and chemicals into geological formations at high pressure to extract oil and gas.

Fracking contaminates drinking water and generates large amounts of toxic wastewater, posing health risks to communities and threatening indigenous rights and lands, and it can even trigger seismic activity. As the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal states “**the materials, and infrastructure of fracking inherently and necessarily violate human rights**”. According to the Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking and Associated Gas and Oil Infrastructure, “**fracking can't be practiced in a manner that does not threaten human health directly or without imperiling climate stability upon which human health depends.**”

Due to these concerns, fracking is widely banned in the Spanish State. However, **Spanish State has no doubts about continuing to import gas from the US, despite being aware of the consequences for local communities.** Moreover, **Spanish companies persist in investing in fracking** without any hesitation. **Repsol**, for instance, continues to fund fracking operations in Eagle Ford and Marcellus (USA). To make matters worse, the company is also involved in the “Pikka Project,” which aims to extract oil and gas in the Arctic region of Alaska (USA).

The EU should prevent imports of gas from fracking and European investments in such projects. As recommended by Oil Change International, “**all fossil fuel-extracting countries should enact emissions regulations that include: clear definitions and robust enforcement, public transparency of monitoring data, a suite of monitoring technologies, and a clear plan for a fair, fast, and funded fossil fuel phaseout.**”

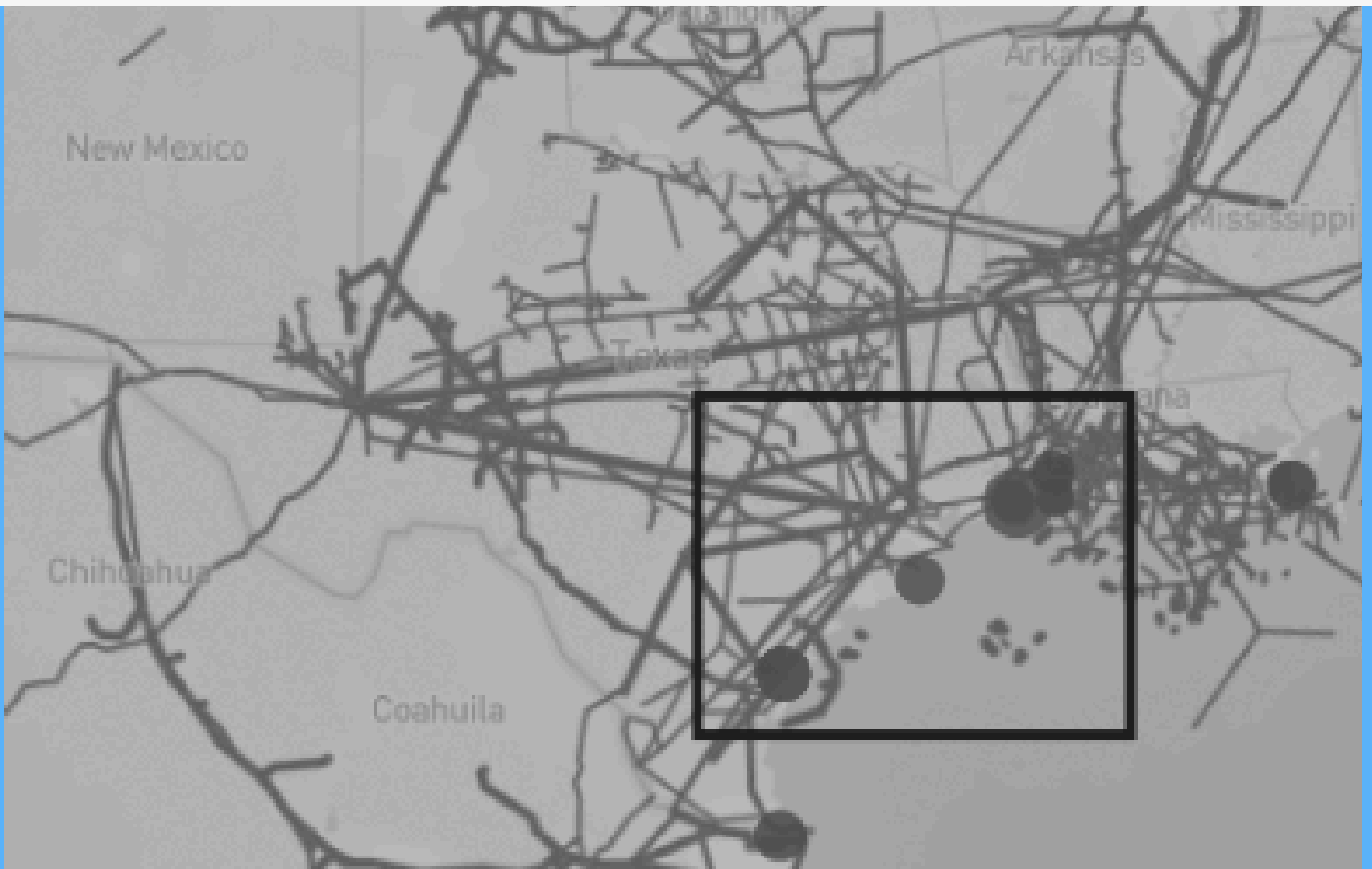


* WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

To counter declining extraction in 2025-26, new **Gulf of Mexico fields and major expansions at Cameron, Freeport, and Corpus Christi are underway**, alongside hydrogen and CCS projects that are widely viewed as **greenwashing** to justify further fossil fuel growth.

At the same time, higher costs, compared with cleaner technologies, have fueled speculation that the **gas boom may soon lose momentum**, potentially limiting the impact of these projects.

[REDACTED]



RESISTENCIA

The **Global North is far from uniform**. Its most vulnerable communities, often connected to the Global South, bear the costs imposed by a wealthy minority. However, these communities are increasingly speaking out to defend their territories and resist exploitation. Here are some examples of resistance.

Better Brazoria: Clean Air & Clean Water (BB)

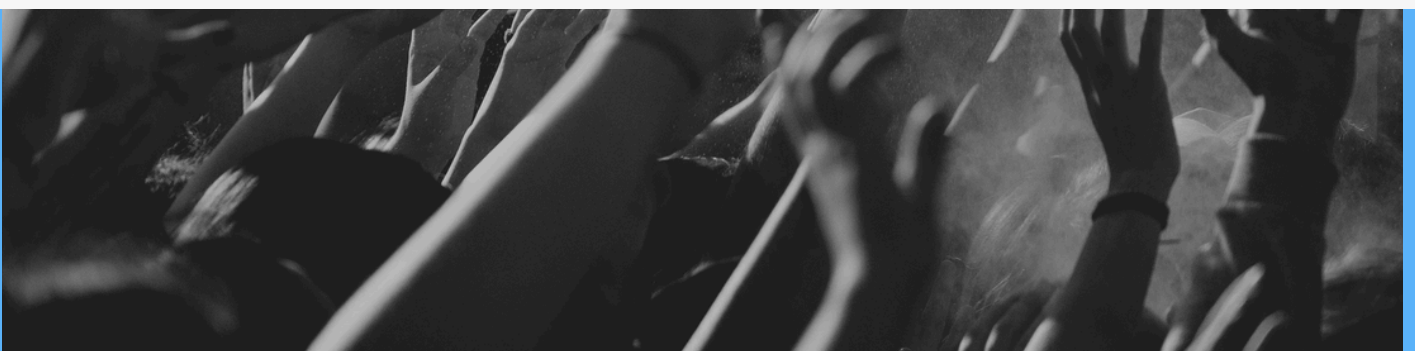
The organization focuses on “**community awareness of health-threatening hazards** and attending public meetings”. BB has advocated for its community from Freeport LNG's early days, through the expansion of the facility and the time of the explosion.

Chispa Texas

Chispa is the League of Conservation Voters' grassroots community-organizing program dedicated to engaging, empowering, and **building the leadership of Latino and low-income communities of color in the fight against environmental injustice**. The program is present in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Maryland, and Texas.

Freeport Haven

Freeport Haven tackles the environmental crisis and the inequalities between what the fossil fuel industry earns and what people can afford. It works on four pillars: **disaster relief and mutual aid in the face of the threat posed by the fossil fuel industry, fair housing, community information by helping affected neighbors, and public accountability through advocacy**.





Opposition to Cameron LNG

Environmental groups such as the Gulf Restoration Network, RESTORE, and the Sierra Club have fought against this project. The Sierra Club is “the **largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the country**”, and one of their projects allows for the monitoring of gas projects.

Texas campaign for the environment (TCE)

The TCE has spent more than three decades working with frontline communities to advance environmental justice and challenge major polluters. They fight to keep their lands from being **sacrifice zones**, “places where health and safety are compromised, ecosystems are wiped out, history and culture are erased, and vital public services are defunded in favor of corporate tax breaks”.



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