



Christopher Smith

SVP, Policy, Government and Public Affairs, Cheniere Energy

Vignette
by National Journal

Life In Brief

Education:

- MBA, University of Cambridge, 1995-1997
- B.S., Engineering Management, US Military Academy at West Point, 1987-1991

Work History:

- SVP, Policy, Government and Public Affairs, Cheniere Energy, 2017-Present
- Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, US Department of Energy, 2013-2017
- Deputy Assistant Secretary, Oil and Natural Gas, US Department of Energy, 2009-2013
- Various Management Positions, Chevron, 1998-2009
- Associate, Foreign Exchange Options Structuring, JPMorgan Chase, 1995-1996
- Associate, Capital Markets, Citibank, 1994-1995

Quick Summary

Former public official turned government affairs professional who has worked in energy policy for the majority of his career; focused on natural gas, LNG and climate change.

- Upon graduating from the US Military Academy at West Point, Smith served tours as an officer in Korea and Hawaii; worked at JPMorgan Chase and Citibank immediately after
- Began his career in the energy industry working for Texaco/Chevron focused on business development in the Liquefied Natural Gas sector
- Transitioned away from industry and into government; as Assistant Secretary of Energy led a staff of over 2,500 scientists, engineers and contractors at twelve sites across the United States.

- Led the Department of Energy's engagement with international stakeholders on carbon capture and other technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; served as the federal liaison on the National Commission for the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling; oversaw the National Strategic Petroleum Reserve
- Smith is now Cheniere's corporate executive responsible for domestic and international government strategy, climate policy, corporate social responsibility, philanthropy, advertising and branding, internal and external communications, and local community engagement

Approach and Motivations

Smith understands the value of education and wants to bring educational opportunity to others; personal connections to the military have led him to nonprofit community service and to greater advocacy amongst government agencies

- Highlights his parents significant influence on him; reflects on the greater number of opportunities provided to him that were not available to them, inspiring him to turn to public service to push for greater opportunity for all
- After Smith served in the US Army, his cousin Emily Perez, who graduated West Point in 2005, deployed to Iraq and was the first in her class to be killed in action while leading a support convoy; passionate about fostering collaboration between the Departments of Defense and Energy to improve units' energy efficiency and reduce the number of fuel convoys; served on the board of the Emily J. T. Perez Foundation, a mentoring program for young women
- Smith describes the core of his work at the Dept. of Energy as "reducing greenhouse gas emissions" from coal-powered, natural gas, and industrial sources; emphasizes the importance



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of utilizing public-private partnerships to achieve these goals

- Advocates for renaming Army bases named after Confederate leaders

Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Smith's public policy efforts include improvements to pipeline safety for LNG operations and regulating LNG exports as a Department of Energy official

Pipeline Safety: Pushes for enhanced safety measures at LNG facilities and in the transmission of LNG

- Publicly supported the PIPES ACT of 2019 that would authorize funds to improve pipeline safety including by establishing protocols for LNG operators to communicate with emergency services, testing programs to evaluate innovative technologies, and new requirements for hazardous liquid gas pipelines
- Promoted the Safer Pipelines Act of 2019 which requires operators to install automatic shutoff valves in high consequence areas and promotes internal inspection devices or pressure testing to test pipeline transmission

Climate and the environment: significant experience at DOE and in private sector

- Incorporated climate modeling into the regulatory process for permitting of LNG exports at the Department of Energy. Oversaw research to quantify and mitigate drilling risks. Restructured and refocused DOE's oil and gas research program following the Gulf of Mexico spill.
- Published Cheniere's inaugural Corporate Social Responsibility report in 2020. Established a partnership with industry peers to execute R&D on fugitive methane emissions.

Relevant Financial Information

Smith has typically donated to Democratic politicians and candidates, largely focused on House campaigns in TX where Cheniere is based

Publications, Media and Speaking

Has testified before congress over a dozen times, both as a government official and as a corporate executive. Speaks about his experience in the energy industry at both the public and private level; has attended conferences on the trends and growth in the LNG energy sector

- Webinar, "Cheniere's 2019 Corporate Responsibility Report," Atlantic Council, 2020 to discuss Cheniere's corporate responsibility efforts and its response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Webinar, "Despite Short-term Pain, Oil and Gas Leaders Stress Infrastructure Gain," hosted in 2020 focused on the energy industries rebound after the COVID-19 pandemic with industry leaders and politicians from Texas including Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)
- Event, "Energy Transition North America" hosted by Reuters in 2020 which brings together experts from industry, government, and research to discuss aligning business interest with the Paris Climate Accords and net zero strategies
- Event, "The Methane Moment – Exxon-EDF panel discussion" World Gas Forum. Discussion on collaboration between LNG companies and natural gas producers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Multiple appearances before U. S. House of Representative Committees (Energy and Commerce, Appropriations, Oversight and Government Reform, Science Space and Technology, and Natural Resources), and U. S. Senate (Energy and Natural Resources).





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Utilizes his expertise to share insights on how the industry is evolving and promote the expansion of LNG; connects with other energy professionals and lawmakers to analyze and respond to the market

- Speaks out about the future of the energy industry, specifically what comes next for the LNG sector; focused on expanding LNG, demonstrating its benefits for the US, and demonstrating the role natural gas will play in the clean energy economy of the future

Professional Affiliations

- Advisory Board Fellow, Baker Institute of Public Policy, Rice University, 2017-2018
- Board, Atlantic Council



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