

Published in LNG Unlimited on 6th August 2010

## Qatari ship disturbs the peace in South Hook

A Q-Max sized LNG carrier already tagged as a noise nuisance has caused similar problems on a return visit to the South Hook terminal in Wales.

Members of the South Hook LNG Ship Noise pressure group, many of whom live close to the facility, reported that the 266,000-cbm newbuilding Shagra caused "a great deal of distress to 90% of the residents' properties while at berth" last week.

The group said members complained of feeling "vibration in their eardrums" and a "fast-paced thumping".

The ship's visit was "the worst nuisance we have had from any vessel yet", they added. Shagra first offloaded at the terminal in mid-April, after which the Pembrokeshire County Council Port Health Team registered a statutory nuisance notice against the ship.

Last week's call was Shagra's third. Residents questioned why it continues to be used when electronic data show vessels with upgraded silencers are idle.

Last month terminal operator South Hook LNG listed 14 vessels, comprising six Q-Max and eight Q-Flex, which have had silencer upgrades. One of those, the 216,000-cbm Tembek (built 2007), was so quiet residents did not know it had berthed last month.

Some reports suggested Shagra had additional work done on its silencers at Samsung Heavy Industries prior to its delivery but this has not been confirmed.

The 216,000-cbm Mesameer (built 2009) is due at the terminal this week followed by the 266,000-cbm newbuilding Aamira and the 210,100-cbm Al Safliya (built 2007).