

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

_____)
COPEQ TRADING CO.)
_____)

DOCKET NO. 21-80-NG
DOCKET NO. 21-30-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION
TO EXPORT NATURAL GAS TO MEXICO, AND
VACATING PRIOR BLANKET AUTHORIZATION

DOE/FECM ORDER NOS. 4735 AND 4678-A

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On August 3, 2021, COPEQ TRADING CO. (COPEQ TRADING) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) of the Department of Energy (DOE) under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)¹ for blanket authorization to export 154.8 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas to Mexico by pipeline. The applicant requests the authorization be granted for a two-year term beginning on the date the Order is issued.² COPEQ TRADING is a Texas corporation with its principal place of business in Houston, Texas.

Previously, on March 9, 2021, DOE granted COPEQ TRADING authorization in DOE/FE Order Nos. 4678 and 4498-A to export 45.3 Bcf of natural gas to Mexico for a two-year term beginning on March 1, 2021, and extending through February 28, 2023. The orders, issued jointly, also vacated prior blanket authorization to import natural gas from Canada granted in DOE/FE Order No. 4498.

On August 3, 2021, COPEQ TRADING requested that DOE/FE vacate its existing authorization in DOE/FE Order No. 4678, effective on the date this authorization is issued.³

II. FINDING

The application has been evaluated to determine if the proposed export arrangement meets the public interest requirement of section 3 of the NGA, as amended by section 201 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-486). Under section 3(c), the import and export of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), from and to a nation with which there is in

¹ Authority to regulate the imports and exports of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas, under section 3 of the NGA (15 U.S.C. § 717b) has been delegated to the Assistant Secretary for FE in Redelegation Order No. S4-DEL-FE1-2021 issued on March 25, 2021. On July 4, 2021, the Office of Fossil Energy changed its name to the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management.

² COPEQ TRADING's blanket authorization granted in DOE/FE Order Nos. 4678 and 4498-A, extends through February 28, 2023.

³ See Application; See also E-mail from Mark C. Kalpin, Partner, Holland & Knight LLP, to DOE (Aug. 9, 2021).

effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas and the import of LNG from other international sources are deemed to be consistent with the public interest, and applications for such imports or exports must be granted without modification or delay. The authorization sought by COPEQ TRADING to export natural gas to Mexico, a nation with which a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas is in effect, meets the section 3(c) criterion and, therefore, is consistent with the public interest. This Order authorizes transactions with terms of not greater than two years.

ORDER

Pursuant to section 3 of the NGA, it is ordered that:

A. COPEQ TRADING is authorized to export 154.8 Bcf of natural gas to Mexico, pursuant to transactions that have terms of not greater than two years. This authorization shall be effective for a two-year term beginning on September 14, 2021, and extending through September 13, 2023.

B. This natural gas may be exported by pipeline at any point on the border between the United States and Mexico.

C. **Monthly Reports:** With respect to the natural gas exports authorized by this Order, COPEQ TRADING shall file with the Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement, within 30 days following the last day of each calendar month, a report indicating whether exports of natural gas have been made. Monthly reports must be filed whether or not initial deliveries have begun. If no exports have been made, a report of “no activity” for that month must be filed. If exports of natural gas have occurred, the report must give the following details: (1) the country of destination; (2) the point(s) of exit; (3) the volume in thousand cubic feet (Mcf); (4) the average purchase price of gas per million British thermal units (MMBtu) at the international

border; (5) the name of the supplier(s); (6) the name of the U.S. transporter(s); and (7) the estimated or actual duration of the supply agreement(s).

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control No. 1901-0294)

D. The first monthly report required by this Order is due not later than October 30, 2021, and should cover the reporting period from September 14, 2021, through September 30, 2021.

E. All monthly report filings on Form FE-746R shall be made to the U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34), Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement, according to the methods of submission listed on the Form FE-746R reporting instructions available at <https://www.energy.gov/fe/services/natural-gas-regulation>.

F. COPEQ TRADING's blanket authorization to export natural gas to Mexico, granted in DOE/FE Order No. 4678 on March 9, 2021, is hereby vacated, effective September 14, 2021.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on September 14, 2021.

Amy R. Sweeney
Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement
Office of Resource Sustainability