

**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Categorical Exclusion Determination**  
**Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management**



**MANIFEST SHIPPING & TRADING CORP.**  
**DOCKET NO. 22-124-LNG**

**PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION:** Manifest Shipping & Trading Corp. (MST) filed an application (Application) with the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) on September 26, 2022 (as clarified on December 12, 2022), pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)<sup>1</sup> and 10 CFR Part 590 of the Department of Energy's (DOE) regulations.

In relevant part, MST states that its proposed exports qualify as "small-scale natural gas exports" under DOE's regulations at 10 CFR §§ 590.102(p) and 590.208(a). Specifically, MST seeks a long-term authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) in a volume equivalent to 51.75 billion cubic feet per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas (0.14 Bcf per day). MST requests that the export term commence on the date of first commercial export and extend through December 31, 2050. MST seeks authority to export the LNG to any country with which the United States does not have a free trade agreement (FTA) requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas, and with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy (non-FTA countries).<sup>2</sup>

MST intends to source LNG primarily from small-scale liquefaction and peak shaving facilities in the United States—specifically, from the JAX LNG and Puget LNG facilities (see Appendix A of the Application). MST seeks to load the LNG for export in two ways: onto small-scale vessels directly from marine terminals, and onto small-scale vessels directly from Jones Act-compliant barges in U.S. ports.

DOE's proposed action is to authorize the exports described in the Application as small-scale natural gas exports.

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPLIED:** B5.7 - Export of natural gas and associated transportation by marine vessel

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

] The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

] There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

] The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**Signature:** James J. Ward Digitally signed by James J. Ward  
Date: 2022.12.13 11:06:27 -05'00'

**Date Determined:** 12/13/2022

**James Ward, NEPA Compliance Officer, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management**

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* § 717b(a). In the Application, MST also requests authorization to export LNG in the same volume to FTA countries under NGA section 3(c), 15 USC § 717b(c), on a non-additive basis. That request is not subject to this categorical exclusion determination.