

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

_____)
COPEQ TRADING CO.)
_____)

DOCKET NO. 22-158-NG
DOCKET NO. 21-80-NG

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

DOE/FECM ORDER NOS. 4949 AND 4735-A

JANUARY 26, 2023

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On December 2, 2022, 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 200.1 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas to Mexico by pipeline. The applicant requests the authorization be granted for a two-year term that began on December 9, 2022.² COPEQ TRADING is a Texas corporation with its principal place of business in Houston, Texas.

Previously, on September 14, 2021, DOE granted COPEQ TRADING authorization in DOE/FECM Order No. 4735 to export 154.8 Bcf of natural gas to Mexico for a two-year term beginning on September 14, 2021, and extending through September 13, 2023. The order was issued jointly with DOE/FECM Order No. 4678-A, which vacated COPEQ TRADING's prior blanket authorization to export natural gas to Mexico granted in DOE/FE Order No. 4678.

On December 2, 2022, COPEQ TRADING requested that DOE vacate its existing authorization in DOE/FECM Order No. 4735, effective December 9, 2022.³

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 FECM in Redelegation Order No. S4-DEL-FE1-2022 issued on June 13, 2022.

² COPEQ TRADING's blanket authorization granted in DOE/FECM Order No. 4735, extends through September 13, 2023.

³ See Application; see also E-mail from Mark C. Kalpin, Partner, Holland & Knight LLP, to DOE (Dec. 2, 2022).

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 200.1 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 that began on December 9, 2022, and extends through December 8, 2024.

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 exports authorized by this Order, COPEQ TRADING shall file with the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Office of Resource Sustainability, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement (FE-34), within 30 days following the last day of each calendar month, a report on Form FE-746R indicating whether exports 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 have occurred, the report must provide the information specified for each applicable activity and mode of transportation, as set forth in the

Guidelines for Filing Monthly Reports. These Guidelines are available at:

<https://www.energy.gov/fecm/guidelines-filing-monthly-reports>.

(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 February 28, 2023, and should cover the reporting period from December 9, 2022, through January 31, 2023.

E. COPEQ TRADING's blanket authorization to export natural gas to Mexico, granted in DOE/FECM Order No. 4735 on September 14, 2021, is hereby vacated, effective December 9, 2022.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 26, 2023.

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