

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



VENTURE GLOBAL PLAQUEMINES LNG, LLC
DOCKET NO. 24-33-LNG

PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC (Plaquemines LNG) filed an application (Application) with the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) on April 22, 2024. Plaquemines LNG supplemented its Application on May 1, 2024. In its Application, as supplemented, Plaquemines LNG seeks blanket authorization to engage in short-term exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) previously imported into the United States from foreign sources. Plaquemines LNG requests authorization to export this LNG in a volume equivalent to 6 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas on a cumulative basis for a two-year period commencing on the earlier of July 22, 2024, or the date of an order granting the requested authorization. The Application was submitted pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)¹ and 10 CFR Part 590 of DOE’s regulations, and states that the proposed exports qualify as “small-scale natural gas exports” under DOE’s regulations at 10 CFR 590.102(p) and 590.208(a).

As relevant here, Plaquemines LNG seeks to export the previously imported LNG by vessel from the Plaquemines LNG Terminal (Terminal), currently under construction in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, 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).²

DOE’s proposed action is to authorize the exports described in the Application, as supplemented, as small-scale natural gas exports. If granted, the authorization would permit the requested exports of previously imported LNG by vessel on a short-term basis from the Terminal, subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the DOE order.

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: _____

Date Determined: 7/10/2024

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

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