



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

**CAMERON LNG, LLC
FE DOCKET NO. 15-67-LNG**

PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Cameron LNG, LLC (Cameron LNG), a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware, filed an application (Application) with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE), Department of Energy (DOE), on April 3, 2015, in FE Docket No. 15-67-LNG, seeking authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) up to the equivalent of 152 billion cubic feet per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas (0.42 Bcf/day) for a term of 20 years, to any country: (i) with which the United States does not have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) requiring the national treatment for trade in natural gas (non-FTA country), (ii) that has or will develop the capacity to import LNG delivered by ocean-going carrier, and (iii) with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy. The proposed exports would occur from Cameron LNG's terminal (Cameron Terminal) in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The Cameron Terminal originally was constructed for the purpose of receiving and re-gasifying imports of LNG but, pursuant to authority issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Cameron LNG is constructing and developing natural gas processing and liquefaction facilities (Cameron Project) to receive and liquefy domestic natural gas at the Cameron Terminal for export from the United States.

The April 3rd Application was submitted to DOE/FE pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act and 10 CFR Part 590 of DOE's regulations. DOE/FE's proposed action is to authorize the exports described in Cameron LNG's April 3rd Application if DOE/FE determines that such exports are not inconsistent with the public interest.

On December 21, 2011, Cameron LNG submitted an application to DOE/FE to export up to 620 Bcf/yr (1.7 Bcf/day) of LNG to non-FTA countries from the Cameron Terminal.¹ On September 10, 2014, DOE/FE granted Cameron LNG authorization to export that requested amount.² However, on June 19, 2014, FERC issued an order authorizing Cameron LNG to site, construct, and operate the Cameron Project facilities at a maximum liquefaction capacity of 772 Bcf/yr (2.12 Bcf/day).³ The Application to DOE/FE requests authority to export from the Cameron Terminal the additional 152 Bcf/yr of LNG authorized by FERC and will not require additional construction or modification to the approved facilities.

FERC completed an environmental review of the Cameron Project that satisfies the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NEPA review was conducted pursuant to an application Cameron LNG filed at the FERC on December 7, 2012, in Docket Number CP13-25-000 under Section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Part 153 of the Commission's regulations, as well as a subsequent application Cameron Interstate filed with the FERC in Docket Number CP13-27-000 on December 14, 2012, under Section 7 of the NGA, as

¹ *Cameron LNG, LLC, Application for Long Term, Multi-Contract Authorization to Export Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries* (December 21, 2011).

² *Cameron LNG, LLC, Final Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Multi-Contract Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas by Vessel from the Cameron LNG Terminal in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations*, DOE/FE Order No. 3391-A, FE Docket No. 11-162-LNG (September 10, 2014).

³ *Cameron LNG, LLC, and Cameron Interstate Pipeline, LLC., Order Granting Authorization Under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act and Issuing Certificates*, 147 FERC ¶ 61,230 (Jun. 19, 2014), *Notice Denying Rehearing*, 148 FERC ¶ 61,073 (July 29, 2014), *Order Denying Rehearing*, 148 FERC ¶ 61,237 (Sept. 26, 2014), appeal taken *sub nom. Sierra Club and Gulf Restoration Network v. FERC* (DC Cir., Case No. 14-1190), dismissed by Court order on March 16, 2015.

amended, and Parts 157 and 284 of the Commission's regulations. That review included an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that addressed the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the liquefaction and pipeline elements of the Cameron Project.⁴ DOE was a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Cameron EIS and adopted it (DOE/EIS-0488) on August 7, 2014. 79 Fed. Reg. 48140 (Aug. 15, 2014).

The Department's regulations at 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B5, provide a list of categorical exclusions from preparation of either an EIS or an EA under NEPA by DOE. Specifically, categorical exclusion B5.7 provides a categorical exclusion where approvals or disapprovals of authorizations to import or export natural gas under NGA section 3 involve minor operational changes but not new construction. Cameron's proposed exports from the Cameron Terminal in the Application in FE Docket No. 15-67-LNG fall within the scope of the B5.7 categorical exclusion because no new construction or modification to the Cameron Project facilities reviewed in the Cameron EIS by FERC and DOE will be necessary due to DOE/FE approval of Cameron's Application. Accordingly, DOE/FE will apply a categorical exclusion under NEPA for the current Application.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPLIED: B5.7 - Import or export natural gas, with operational changes

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.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

] 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.

⁴ FERC *Final Environmental Impact Statement Cameron Liquefaction Project*, Docket Nos. CP13-25-000; CP13-27-000 (April 2014), hereafter, Cameron EIS.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), 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: Mark J. Matarrese Date Determined: 3/18/16

Mark J. Matarrese, NEPA Compliance Officer, Office of Fossil Energy