

Russian Highly Enriched Uranium Agreement and the Suspension Agreement.” Section 306(a) of Division D, Title III of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113–235), limits the validity of any determination by the Secretary under section 3112(d)(2)(B) of the USEC Privatization Act to no more than two calendar years subsequent to the determination.

In recent years, DOE has transferred uranium for cleanup services at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant and for down-blending of highly-enriched uranium to low-enriched uranium (LEU). In May 2015, the Secretary determined that certain transfers, described in the determination, would not have an adverse material impact on the domestic uranium mining, conversion, or enrichment industry (the “2015 Secretarial Determination”).<sup>1</sup> The 2015 Determination covers transfers to contractors for cleanup services at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant of up to 2,000 metric tons of natural uranium equivalent (MTU) contained in natural uranium hexafluoride in calendar year 2015, as well as transfers of up to 1,600 MTU per calendar year contained in natural uranium hexafluoride in calendar year 2016 and thereafter. The 2015 Secretarial Determination also covers an amount of LEU equivalent to up to 500 MTU of natural uranium per calendar year in calendar year 2015 and thereafter, transferred to contractors for down-blending highly-enriched uranium to LEU.

DOE is preparing for a new Secretarial Determination that would cover further transfers of uranium for cleanup services at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant and for down-blending of highly-enriched uranium to LEU upon expiration of the 2015 Secretarial Determination. DOE is initiating this process by publishing this RFI seeking information on the uranium markets and domestic uranium industries. DOE will evaluate comments received in response to this RFI, along with other information and analysis, to determine whether its future transfers would have an adverse material impact on the domestic uranium mining, conversion, or enrichment industry.

## II. Issues on Which DOE Seeks Comment and Information

This RFI seeks information from interested parties on the uranium

<sup>1</sup> Excess Uranium Management: Secretarial Determination of No Adverse Impact on the Domestic Uranium Mining, Conversion, and Enrichment Industries, 80 FR 26366 (May 7, 2015).

markets and domestic uranium industries, and the potential effects of DOE’s transfers on the uranium markets and possible consequences for domestic uranium industries. DOE will use that information to help analyze and determine whether its transfers would have an adverse material impact on the domestic uranium mining, conversion, or enrichment industry. For all comments, DOE requests that interested parties fully explain any assumptions that underlie their reasoning. DOE also requests that commenters provide underlying data or other information sufficient to allow DOE to review and verify any of the assumptions, calculations or views expressed by the commenters.

DOE specifically invites public comment on the following questions:

(1) What are current and projected conditions in the uranium markets, and the domestic uranium mining, conversion and enrichment industries?

(2) What market effects and industry consequences could DOE expect from continued transfers at annual rates comparable to the transfers described in the 2015 Secretarial Determination?

(3) Would transfers at a lower annual rate or a higher annual rate significantly change these effects, and if so, how?

(4) Are there any anticipated changes in these markets that may significantly change how DOE transfers affect the domestic uranium industries?

Although comment is particularly welcome on the issues discussed above, DOE also requests comments on other topics that commenters consider significant in preparing for a potential new Secretarial Determination.

## III. Submission of Comments

DOE invites all interested parties to submit, in writing by August 18, 2016, comments and information on matters addressed in this RFI. Any information that may be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should be submitted as described in section IV. Confidential Business Information. After the close of the comment period, DOE will continue collecting data, conducting analyses, and reviewing the public comments, as needed.

## IV. Confidential Business Information

Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email, postal mail, or hand delivery/courier two well-marked copies: One copy of the document marked “confidential” including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked

“non-confidential” with the information believed to be confidential deleted. Submit these documents via email. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination. Factors of interest to DOE when evaluating requests to treat submitted information as confidential include: (1) A description of the items; (2) whether and why such items are customarily treated as confidential within the industry; (3) whether the information is generally known by or available from other sources; (4) whether the information has previously been made available to others without obligation concerning its confidentiality; (5) an explanation of the competitive injury to the submitting person which would result from public disclosure; (6) when such information might lose its confidential character due to the passage of time; and (7) why disclosure of the information would be contrary to the public interest.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 12, 2016.

**Raymond Furstenu,**

*Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Nuclear Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2016–17024 Filed 7–18–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. 15–190–LNG]

### **Rio Grande LNG, LLC; Application for Long-Term, Multi-Contract Authorization To Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations**

**AGENCY:** Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of application.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice of receipt of an application, filed on December 23, 2015, amended on June 7, 2016 (Application), by Rio Grande LNG, LLC (Rio Grande LNG). Rio Grande LNG requests long-term, multi-contract authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) in a volume equivalent to approximately 1,318 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year of natural gas (3.61 Bcf per day). Rio Grande LNG seeks to export the LNG by vessel from its proposed natural gas liquefaction and LNG export terminal to be located in Cameron County, Texas, along the north embankment of the Brownsville Ship Channel (Rio Grande LNG Project). Rio Grande LNG requests authorization to export this 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>1</sup> Rio Grande LNG seeks authorization to export this LNG for (a) a single 20-year primary term applicable to the entire Rio Grande LNG Project consisting of six (6) liquefaction trains commencing on the earlier of (i) the date of first export from the first of the Rio Grande LNG Project's trains to be commissioned, or (ii) seven (7) years from the date of the DOE/FE order authorizing such exports, coupled with (b) a five (5) year Make-Up Period at the conclusion of the 20-year primary term.<sup>2</sup> Rio Grande LNG seeks to export this LNG on its own behalf and as agent for other entities who hold title to the LNG at the time of export. The Application was filed under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA). Additional details can be found in Rio Grande LNG's Application, posted on the DOE/FE Web site at: [https://cms.doe.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/07/f33/Rio\\_Grande15\\_190-LNG\\_App.pdf](https://cms.doe.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/07/f33/Rio_Grande15_190-LNG_App.pdf) and in the amendment to the Application, posted on the DOE/FE Web site at: [https://cms.doe.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/07/f33/RGLNG\\_Amend06\\_07\\_16.pdf](https://cms.doe.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/07/f33/RGLNG_Amend06_07_16.pdf). Protests, motions to intervene, notices of intervention, and written comments are invited.

**DATES:** Protests, motions to intervene or notices of intervention, as applicable, requests for additional procedures, and written comments are to be filed using procedures detailed in the Public Comment Procedures section no later than 4:30 p.m., Eastern time, September 19, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** *Electronic Filing by email:* [fergas@hq.doe.gov](mailto:fergas@hq.doe.gov).

*Regular Mail:* U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34), Office of Regulation and International Engagement, Office of Fossil Energy, P.O. Box 44375, Washington, DC 20026-4375.

*Hand Delivery or Private Delivery Services (e.g., FedEx, UPS, etc.):* U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34), Office of Regulation and International Engagement, Office of Fossil Energy,

Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Beverly Howard, or Larine Moore, U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34), Office of Regulation and International Engagement, Office of Fossil Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-9387; (202) 586-9578.

Edward Myers, U.S. Department of Energy (GC-76), Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Electricity and Fossil Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-9793.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**DOE/FE Evaluation**

The Application will be reviewed pursuant to section 3(a) of the NGA, 15 U.S.C. 717b(a), and DOE will consider any issues required by law or policy. To the extent determined to be relevant, these issues will include the domestic need for the natural gas proposed to be exported, the adequacy of domestic natural gas supply, and U.S. energy security. DOE may also consider other factors bearing on the public interest, including the impact of the proposed exports on the U.S. economy, international considerations, and whether the authorization is consistent with DOE's policy of promoting competition in the marketplace by allowing commercial parties to freely negotiate their own trade arrangements. As part of this analysis, DOE will consider the following two studies examining the cumulative impacts of exporting domestically produced LNG:

- *Effect of Increased Levels of Liquefied Natural Gas on U.S. Energy Markets*, conducted by the U.S. Energy Information Administration upon DOE's request (2014 EIA LNG Export Study);<sup>3</sup> and
- *The Macroeconomic Impact of Increasing U.S. LNG Exports*, conducted jointly by the Center for Energy Studies at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy and Oxford Economics, on behalf of DOE (2015 LNG Export Study).<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, DOE will consider the following environmental documents:

<sup>3</sup> The 2014 EIA LNG Export Study, published on Oct. 29, 2014, is available at: <https://www.eia.gov/analysis/requests/fe/>.

<sup>4</sup> The 2015 LNG Export Study, dated Oct. 29, 2015, is available at: [http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/12/f27/20151113\\_macro\\_impact\\_of\\_lng\\_exports\\_0.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/12/f27/20151113_macro_impact_of_lng_exports_0.pdf).

- *Addendum to Environmental Review Documents Concerning Exports of Natural Gas From the United States*, 79 FR 48132 (Aug. 15, 2014);<sup>5</sup> and

• *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas From the United States*, 79 FR 32260 (June 4, 2014).<sup>6</sup>

Parties that may oppose this Application should address these issues in their comments and/or protests, as well as other issues deemed relevant to the Application.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, requires DOE to give appropriate consideration to the environmental effects of its proposed decisions. No final decision will be issued in this proceeding until DOE has met its environmental responsibilities.

**Public Comment Procedures**

In response to this Notice, any person may file a protest, comments, or a motion to intervene or notice of intervention, as applicable. Due to the complexity of the issues raised by the Applicant, interested persons will be provided 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice in which to submit comments, protests, motions to intervene, or notices of intervention.

Any person wishing to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene or notice of intervention. The filing of comments or a protest with respect to the Application will not serve to make the commenter or protestant a party to the proceeding, although protests and comments received from persons who are not parties will be considered in determining the appropriate action to be taken on the Application. All protests, comments, motions to intervene, or notices of intervention must meet the requirements specified by the regulations in 10 CFR part 590.

Filings may be submitted using one of the following methods: (1) Emailing the filing to [fergas@hq.doe.gov](mailto:fergas@hq.doe.gov), with FE Docket No. 15-190-LNG in the title line; (2) mailing an original and three paper copies of the filing to the Office of Regulation and International Engagement at the address listed in **ADDRESSES**; or (3) hand delivering an original and three paper copies of the filing to the Office of Regulation and International Engagement at the address

<sup>5</sup> The Addendum and related documents are available at <http://energy.gov/fe/addendum-environmental-review-documents-concerning-exports-natural-gas-united-states>.

<sup>6</sup> The Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Report is available at: <http://energy.gov/fe/life-cycle-greenhouse-gas-perspective-exporting-liquefied-natural-gas-united-states>.

<sup>1</sup> In the Application, Rio Grande LNG also requests authorization to export the same volume of LNG to any nation that currently has, or in the future may enter into, a FTA requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas, and with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy (FTA countries). DOE/FE will review that request separately pursuant to section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act, 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c).

<sup>2</sup> Rio Grande's proposed request is uniquely structured due to the scope of the Rio Grande LNG Project. The Rio Grande Project will be the largest LNG export project in the U.S. to be developed in a single phase.

listed in **ADDRESSES**. All filings must include a reference to FE Docket No. 15–190–LNG. **Please Note:** If submitting a filing via email, please include all related documents and attachments (e.g., exhibits) in the original email correspondence. Please do not include any active hyperlinks or password protection in any of the documents or attachments related to the filing. All electronic filings submitted to DOE must follow these guidelines to ensure that all documents are filed in a timely manner. Any hardcopy filing submitted greater in length than 50 pages must also include, at the time of the filing, a digital copy on disk of the entire submission.

A decisional record on the Application will be developed through responses to this notice by parties, including the parties’ written comments and replies thereto. Additional procedures will be used as necessary to achieve a complete understanding of the facts and issues. If an additional procedure is scheduled, notice will be provided to all parties. If no party requests additional procedures, a final Opinion and Order may be issued based on the official record, including the Application and responses filed by parties pursuant to this notice, in accordance with 10 CFR 590.316.

The Application is available for inspection and copying in the Office of Regulation and International Engagement docket room, Room 3E–042, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585. The docket room is open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The Application and any filed protests, motions to intervene or notice of interventions, and comments will also be available electronically by going to the following DOE/FE Web address: <http://www.fe.doe.gov/programs/gasregulation/index.html>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 13, 2016.

**John A. Anderson,**  
*Director, Office of Regulation and International Engagement, Office of Oil and Natural Gas.*

[FR Doc. 2016–17025 Filed 7–18–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 8221–094]

**Alaska Energy Authority; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (Commission or FERC’s) regulations, 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 Federal Register [FR] 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed Alaska Energy Authority’s application for a non-capacity amendment to the license for the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 8221), located on the south shore and near the head of Kachemak Bay, 22.5 miles east, northeast of the city of Homer, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska. The project currently occupies a total of 5,498 acres of federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Staff prepared a final environmental assessment (EA), which analyzes the potential environmental effects of constructing and operating a new diversion on the West Fork of Upper Battle Creek that would divert water to Bradley Lake and thereby increase generation at the project. The final EA concludes that authorizing the amendment, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the final EA is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission’s Web site at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at 1–866–208–3676, or for TTY, 202–502–8659.

You may also register online at [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/)

**1029TH—MEETING, REGULAR MEETING**

[July 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.]

*esubscription.asp* to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

For further information, contact Steven Sachs by telephone at 202–502–8666 or by email at [Steven.Sachs@ferc.gov](mailto:Steven.Sachs@ferc.gov).

Dated: July 13, 2016.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2016–17010 Filed 7–18–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**Sunshine Act Meeting Notice**

The following notice of meeting is published pursuant to section 3(a) of the government in the Sunshine Act (Pub. L. 94–409), 5 U.S.C. 552b:

**AGENCY HOLDING MEETING:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**DATE AND TIME:** July 21, 2016 10:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Room 2C, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

**STATUS:** Open.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Agenda.

\* NOTE—Items listed on the agenda may be deleted without further notice.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Telephone (202) 502–8400.

For a recorded message listing items struck from or added to the meeting, call (202) 502–8627.

This is a list of matters to be considered by the Commission. It does not include a listing of all documents relevant to the items on the agenda. All public documents, however, may be viewed on line at the Commission’s Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the eLibrary link, or may be examined in the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

Item No	Docket No.	Company
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		
A–1 .....	AD16–1–000 .....	Agency Administrative Matters.
A–2 .....	AD16–7–000 .....	Customer Matters, Reliability, Security and Market Operations.