

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

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COPEQ TRADING CO.  
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FE DOCKET NO. 21-30-NG  
FE DOCKET NO. 20-4-NG

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

DOE/FE ORDER NOS. 4678 AND 4498-A

MARCH 9, 2021

## I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On February 24, 2021, COPEQ TRADING CO. (COPEQ TRADING) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)<sup>1</sup> for blanket authorization to export 45.3 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 March 1, 2021.<sup>2</sup> COPEQ TRADING is a Texas corporation with its principal place of business in Houston, Texas.

Previously, on January 30, 2020, DOE/FE granted COPEQ TRADING authorization in DOE/FE Order No. 4498 to export 21.4 Bcf of natural gas to Mexico for a two-year term beginning on January 11, 2020, and extending through January 10, 2022.

On February 24, 2021, COPEQ TRADING requested that DOE/FE vacate its existing authorization in DOE/FE Order No. 4498, effective on March 1, 2021.<sup>3</sup>

## 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 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

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<sup>1</sup> The 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 FE in Redelegation Order No. 00-002.04G issued on June 4, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> COPEQ TRADING's blanket authorization, granted in DOE/FE Order No. 4498, extends through January 10, 2022. *See also* E-mail from Kellie Balli, Paralegal, Thompson & Knight LLP, to DOE/FE (Feb. 24, 2021) (requesting March 1, 2021 as the effective date).

<sup>3</sup> *See* Application; *See also* E-mail from Kellie Balli, Paralegal, Thompson & Knight LLP, to DOE/FE (Feb. 23, 2021).

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 45.3 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 March 1, 2021, and extends through February 28, 2023.

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 natural gas exports authorized by this Order, COPEQ TRADING shall file with the Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement, within 30 days following the last day of each calendar month, a report indicating whether exports of natural gas 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 of natural gas have occurred, the report must give the following details: (1) the country of destination; (2) the point(s) of exit; (3) the volume in thousand cubic feet (Mcf); (4) the average purchase price of gas per million British thermal units (MMBtu) at the international border; (5) the name of the supplier(s); (6) the name of the U.S. transporter(s); and (7) the estimated or actual duration of the supply agreement(s).

(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 April 30, 2021, and should cover the reporting period from March 1, 2021, through March 31, 2021.

E. All monthly report filings on Form FE-746R shall be made to the U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34), Office of Fossil Energy, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement, according to the methods of submission listed on the Form FE-746R reporting instructions available at <https://www.energy.gov/fe/services/natural-gas-regulation>.

F. COPEQ TRADING's blanket authorization to export natural gas to Mexico, granted in DOE/FE Order No. 4498 on January 30, 2020, is hereby vacated, effective March 1, 2021.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on March 9, 2021.

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Amy R. Sweeney  
Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement  
Office of Oil and Natural Gas