



[6450-01-P]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. 15-190-LNG]

Rio Grande LNG, LLC; Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Record of decision.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice of a Record of Decision (ROD) published under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and implementing regulations. This ROD supports DOE/FE's decision in DOE/FE Order No. 4492, an opinion and order authorizing Rio Grande LNG, LLC to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) to non-free trade agreement countries under section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 10, 2020, DOE/FE issued Order No. 4492 to Rio Grande LNG, LLC (Rio Grande LNG) under NGA section 3(a), 15 U.S.C. 717b(a). This Order authorizes Rio Grande LNG to export domestically produced LNG to any country with which the United States has not entered into 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). Rio Grande LNG is authorized to export LNG in a volume equivalent to 1,318 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year of natural gas (3.61 Bcf/day) from the proposed Rio Grande LNG Project (Project), to be located on the northern embankment of the Brownsville Ship Channel in Cameron County, Texas.

DOE/FE participated as a cooperating agency with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) analyzing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project that would be used to support the export authorization sought from DOE/FE. DOE adopted the EIS and prepared the ROD, which is attached as an appendix to the Order. The ROD can be found here:

<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2020/02/f71/ord4492.pdf>.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on March 12, 2020.

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

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