



[6450-01-P]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. 16-28-LNG]

Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC; Application to Amend Export Term Through December 31, 2050, for Existing Non-Free Trade Agreement Authorization

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice (Notice) of receipt of an application (Application), filed on August 12, 2020, by Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC (Plaquemines LNG). Plaquemines LNG seeks to amend the export term set forth in its current authorization to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) to non-free trade agreement countries, DOE/FE Order No. 4446, to a term ending on December 31, 2050.

Plaquemines LNG filed the Application under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and DOE's policy statement entitled, "Extending Natural Gas Export Authorizations to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries Through the Year 2050" (Policy Statement). Protests, motions to intervene, notices of intervention, and written comments on the requested term extension 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, **[INSERT DATE 15 DAYS**

AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES:

Electronic Filing by email
fergas@hq.doe.gov

Regular Mail

U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Regulation, Analysis, and 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, Analysis, and Engagement
Office of Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042
1000 Independence Avenue SW,
Washington, DC 20585

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Benjamin Nussdorf or Amy Sweeney
U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement
Office of Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042
1000 Independence Avenue SW,
Washington, DC 20585
(202) 586-7893; (202) 586-2627
benjamin.nussdorf@hq.doe.gov or *amy.sweeney@hq.doe.gov*

Cassandra Bernstein or Edward Toyozaki
U.S. Department of Energy (GC-76)
Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Electricity and Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 6D-033
1000 Independence Avenue SW,
Washington, DC 20585
(202) 586-9793; (202) 586-0126
cassandra.bernstein@hq.doe.gov or *edward.toyozaki@hq.doe.gov*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On October 16, 2019, in Order No. 4446, DOE/FE authorized Plaquemines LNG to export domestically produced LNG in a volume equivalent to 1,240 billion cubic feet per year of natural gas, pursuant to NGA section 3(a), 15 U.S.C. 717b(a).¹ Plaquemines LNG is authorized to export

¹ *Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4446, FE Docket No. 16-28-LNG, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (Oct. 16, 2019).

this LNG by vessel from the proposed Plaquemines LNG Project, to be located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, 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) for a 20-year term. In the Application,² Plaquemines LNG asks DOE to extend its current export term to a term ending on December 31, 2050, as provided in the Policy Statement.³ Additional details can be found in the Application, posted on the DOE/FE website at: <https://www.energy.gov/fe/venture-global-plaquemines-lng-llc-fe-dkt-no-16-28-lng>.

DOE/FE Evaluation

In the Policy Statement, DOE adopted a term through December 31, 2050 (inclusive of any make-up period), as the standard export term for long-term non-FTA authorizations.⁴ As the basis for its decision, DOE considered its obligations under NGA section 3(a), the public comments supporting and opposing the proposed Policy Statement, and a wide range of information bearing on the public interest.⁵ DOE explained that, upon receipt of an application under the Policy Statement, it would conduct a public interest analysis of the application under NGA section 3(a). DOE further stated that “the public interest analysis will be limited to the application for the term extension—meaning an intervenor or protestor may challenge the requested extension but not the existing non-FTA order.”⁶

² Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC, Application to Amend Export Term for Existing Long-Term Authorizations Through December 31, 2050, FE Docket No. 16-28-LNG (Aug. 12, 2020). Plaquemines LNG’s request regarding its FTA authorization is not subject to this Notice. *See* 15 U.S.C. 717b(c).

³ U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Extending Natural Gas Export Authorizations to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries Through the Year 2050; Notice of Final Policy Statement and Response to Comments, 85 FR 52237 (Aug. 25, 2020) [hereinafter Policy Statement].

⁴ *See id.*, 85 FR 52247.

⁵ *See id.*, 85 FR 52247.

⁶ *Id.*, 85 FR 52247.

Accordingly, in reviewing Plaquemines LNG's Application, DOE/FE will consider any issues required by law or policy under NGA section 3(a), as informed by the Policy Statement. To the extent appropriate, DOE will consider the study entitled, *Macroeconomic Outcomes of Market Determined Levels of U.S. LNG Exports* (2018 LNG Export Study),⁷ DOE's response to public comments received on that Study,⁸ and the following environmental documents:

- *Addendum to Environmental Review Documents Concerning Exports of Natural Gas From the United States*, 79 FR 48132 (Aug. 15, 2014);⁹
- *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas From the United States*, 79 FR 32260 (June 4, 2014);¹⁰ and
- *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas From the United States: 2019 Update*, 84 FR 49278 (Sept. 19, 2019), and DOE/FE's response to public comments received on that study.¹¹

Parties that may oppose the Application should address these issues and documents 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, addressing the Application. Interested parties will be provided

⁷ See NERA Economic Consulting, *Macroeconomic Outcomes of Market Determined Levels of U.S. LNG Exports* (June 7, 2018), available at:

<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2018/06/f52/Macroeconomic%20LNG%20Export%20Study%202018.pdf>.

⁸ U.S. Dep't of Energy, *Study on Macroeconomic Outcomes of LNG Exports: Response to Comments Received on Study*; Notice of Response to Comments, 83 FR 67251 (Dec. 28, 2018).

⁹ The Addendum and related documents are available at: <http://energy.gov/fe/draft-addendum-environmental-review-documents-concerning-exports-natural-gas-united-states>.

¹⁰ The 2014 Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Report is available at: <http://energy.gov/fe/life-cycle-greenhouse-gas-perspective-exporting-liquefied-natural-gas-united-states>.

¹¹ U.S. Dep't of Energy, *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas From the United States: 2019 Update – Response to Comments*, 85 FR 72 (Jan. 2, 2020). The 2019 Update and related documents are available at: <https://fossil.energy.gov/app/docketindex/docket/index/21>.

15 days from the date of publication of this Notice in which to submit comments, protests, motions to intervene, or notices of intervention. The public previously was given an opportunity to intervene in, protest, and comment on Plaquemines LNG's long-term non-FTA application. Therefore, DOE will not consider comments or protests that do not bear directly on the requested term extension.

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) e-mailing the filing to *fergas@hq.doe.gov*, with FE Docket No. 16-28-LNG in the title line; (2) mailing an original and three paper copies of the filing to the Office of Regulation, Analysis, and 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, Analysis, and Engagement at the address listed in **ADDRESSES**. All filings must include a reference to FE Docket No. 16-28-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. 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, Analysis, and Engagement docket room, Room 3E-042, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., 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>.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 26, 2020.

Amy Sweeney,
Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement,
Office of Fossil Energy.