

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



SOUTHERN LNG COMPANY, L.L.C.
FE DOCKET NO. 20-99-LNG


PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Southern LNG Company, L.L.C. (Southern LNG) filed an application (Application) with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) on August 18, 2020 (as clarified on October 21, 2020, January 11 and 21, 2021), seeking blanket authorization to engage in short-term exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) previously imported into the United States from foreign sources. Southern LNG requests authorization to re-export this LNG in a volume equivalent to 182.5 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas on a cumulative basis for a two-year period commencing on April 1, 2021. As relevant here, Southern LNG seeks to re-export this LNG by vessel from the Elba Island Terminal (SLNG Terminal), located in Chatham County, Georgia, 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). Southern LNG Company states that the re-export volume requested is not additive to the LNG export authorizations it currently holds.¹ The Application was submitted pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act² and 10 CFR Part 590 of the Department of Energy's (DOE) regulations.

DOE/FE's proposed action is to authorize the re-exports described in the Application if DOE/FE determines that such re-exports are not inconsistent with the public interest. If granted, the authorization would permit the requested LNG re-exports by vessel on a short-term basis from the SLNG Terminal, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the DOE order.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPLIED: B5.7 - Export of natural gas and associated transportation by marine vessel

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;

¹ *Southern LNG Co.*, Application for Blanket Authorization to Export Previously Imported Liquefied Natural Gas, FE Docket No. 20-99-LNG, at 3-4 (Aug. 18, 2020).

² 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

(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; or (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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer, 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  Digitally signed by Mark J. Matarrese
Date: 2021.03.30 10:48:11 -04'00'

Date Determined: 3-30-2021

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