

**RECEIVED****By DOE/FE at 11:55 am, Apr 03, 2019**

David Wochner  
david.wochner@klgates.com

T +1 202 778 9014  
F +1 202 778 9100

April 3, 2019

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Fossil Energy  
Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities  
P.O. Box 44375  
Washington, DC 20026-4375  
Attention: Natural Gas Reports

**Re: Rio Grande LNG, LLC – Semi-Annual Progress Report  
DOE/FE Docket No. 15-190-LNG**

To: Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities:

Pursuant to Ordering Paragraph J of DOE/FE Order 3869, please accept the following progress report for Rio Grande LNG, LLC (“Rio Grande LNG”). This report covers the period from September 30, 2018 through April 1, 2019.

- Rio Grande LNG continues to progress through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (“FERC”) approval process and engage in commercial discussions for long-term LNG sales contracts. On October 12, 2018, FERC issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) for the Rio Grande LNG project. According to Rio Grand LNG’s Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review issued by FERC, FERC staff will publish the Final Environmental Impact Statement (“FEIS”) for the project on April 26, 2019. A final order is expected in July 2019.
- On December 12, 2018, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) voted to issue a series of air permits for the project (TCEQ Docket No. 2018-13-4-AIR). In addition, all requests for hearing and a motion for reconsideration were denied.
- On March 7, 2019, NextDecade Corporation announced that it had entered into a thirty-year lease agreement with the Brownsville Navigation District (“BND”) for a site in the Port of Brownsville where it will construct the LNG export terminal. The lease agreement, which covers a 984-acre parcel of land, contains two options to renew and extend the term for periods of ten (10) years each. The lease agreement supersedes previous site option agreements.
- On March 26, 2019, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (“PHMSA”) issued a Letter of Determination (“LOD”) determining that Rio Grande LNG has demonstrated that the proposed siting of the project complies with the Federal Pipeline Safety Standards set forth in 49 C.F.R. Part 193, Subpart B.

- On March 28, 2019, Next-Decade Corporation and Shell NA LNG LLC executed a twenty-year sale and purchase agreement for the supply of two million tons per annum of LNG from the Rio Grande LNG terminal in Brownsville, TX. Consistent with DOE's reporting obligations, Rio Grande LNG will file a separate non-redacted version of the agreement under seal with DOE and a summary of key provisions in the agreement for the public docket.
- Rio Grande LNG continues to progress through the competitive engineering, procurement, and construction ("EPC") bid process to maintain Rio Grande LNG's projected commercial operation date in 2023. NextDecade anticipates executing a final lump sum turnkey EPC contract in Q3 2019.

Consistent with Ordering Paragraph J, Rio Grande LNG will continue to file semi-annual reports with DOE. If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (202) 778-9014 or at [david.wochner@klgates.com](mailto:david.wochner@klgates.com).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Wochner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Wochner  
*Counsel for Rio Grande LNG, LLC*