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April 1, 2020

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 and Ordering Paragraph M of DOE/FE Order 4992, please accept the following progress report for Rio Grande LNG, LLC (“Rio Grande LNG” or the “Project”). This report covers the period from October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

- On October 1, 2019, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) issued its Biological Opinion for the Project, thereby concluding the Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation for the Project.
- On November 22, 2019, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) issued an order (the “FERC Order”) authorizing the siting, construction and operation of the Project and the associated interstate natural gas pipeline, Rio Bravo Pipeline (“Rio Bravo Pipeline”).
- On November 25, 2019, Rio Grande LNG filed with FERC its Initial Implementation Plan, and three supplemental volumes requesting approval for mobilization (Volume No. 1), limited site prep (Volume No. 2), and the Test Pile Program (Volume No. 3).
- On November 26, 2019 and February 3, 2020, Rio Grande LNG submitted to DOE an update on its ownership structure.
- On December 18, 2019, the USFWS concurred with the “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination with respect to the impact of the proposed Compensatory Mitigation Plan required for the Project’s U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) Clean Water Section 404/Rivers & Harbors Act Section 10 permit on the ocelot, jaguarundi, and aplomado falcon.

- On December 20, 2019, Rio Grande LNG filed with FERC Implementation Plan Volume No. 4 requesting approval for full site preparation.
- On January 14, 2020, the Texas Historical Commission / State Historic Preservation Office concluded their review of outstanding cultural resource reports and confirmed that with the implementation of the recommendations and avoidance measures provided in the reports, the Project will have no adverse effects on historic properties.
- On January 23, 2020, FERC denied requests for rehearing of the FERC Order.
- On February 3, 2020, Rio Grande LNG filed with FERC Implementation Plan Volume No. 5 requesting authorization to proceed with the Project's Deep Soil Mixing Test Plan. FERC approval remains pending.
- On February 10, 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy issued their opinion and order granting long-term authorization to export liquefied natural gas to non-free trade agreement nations (DOE/FE Order No. 4492).
- On February 13, 2020, Rio Grande LNG's parent company NextDecade Corporation ("NextDecade") announced that it had entered into a definitive agreement with Enbridge Inc. ("Enbridge") pursuant to which Enbridge would acquire 100% of NextDecade's equity interest in Rio Bravo Pipeline Company, LLC, the entity that owns the FERC-approved Rio Bravo Pipeline. The sale became effective on March 2, 2020.
- On February 14, 2020, the Railroad Commission of Texas ("TRRC") issued their Statement of Basis, Response to Comments, Conditional State Water Quality Certification and Conditional Texas Coastal Management Program ("TCMP") Consistency Determination. TRRC found that subject to compliance with certain conditions, the Project will not cause a violation of the applicable water quality requirements and is consistent with the applicable goals and policies of the TCMP.
- On February 20, 2020, Vecinos para el Bienestar de la Comunidad Costera and two other petitioners filed a petition with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, seeking review of the FERC Order and the order denying rehearing, and was assigned to case no. 20-145.
- On February 21, 2020, USACE issued their Section 10/404 permit for the Project.
- On March 6, 2020, FERC issued to Rio Grande LNG a Notice to Proceed with mobilization of equipment, trailers, and personnel to the terminal site, full site preparation including site clearing and balancing, placement of imported material, and rough grading of the terminal site, and the implementation of Rio Grande LNG's Test Pile Program, as set forth in Implementation Plan Volume Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- On March 18, 2020, Rio Grande LNG filed a motion for leave to intervene with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in the proceeding, *Vecinos para el Bienestar, et al v. FERC*, no. 20-145.

- On March 19, 2020, USACE issued the Real Estate Outgrant for the Project.
- On March 25, 2020, Rio Grande LNG submitted to FERC Implementation Plan Volume No. 6 in which it provided information related to various conditions of the FERC Order.

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.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Wochner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Wochner
Counsel for Rio Grande LNG, LLC