

U.S. LNG Exports - A Shared and Continuing Success Story

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Who could have imagined just four years ago that the U.S. would be exporting enough LNG to meet approximately one-fifth of current global LNG demand? Most of the credit belongs to the U.S. natural gas industry, which has successfully developed and deployed new technologies to make the U.S. the world's largest natural gas producer.

Credit is also due to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy. Its Office of Oil and Natural Gas supports early stage natural gas technologies and environmental mitigation from the prudent development of America's oil and natural gas resources. The Office of Oil and Natural Gas is also the chief U.S. government regulator of natural gas imports and exports.

During the Trump Administration, the number of countries receiving U.S. LNG has more than doubled, with the first delivery of U.S. LNG recently reaching Croatia, the 39th country to receive U.S. LNG. Exports have grown from 1.7 to over 9 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), a more than 5-fold increase since the beginning of this Administration. Our current operating export capacity, along with the capacity under construction, exceeds 15 Bcf/d. Once the capacity under construction is complete, the U.S. will have more LNG export capacity than any other country in the world.

DOE has instituted several initiatives to assure the long-term benefits of U.S. LNG exports.

One of DOE's latest initiatives, [a policy statement which allows LNG exporters to extend their export authorizations through 2050](#), provides further regulatory certainty to U.S. LNG exporters by extending their authorizations out to the year 2050 as they compete on the global market. DOE recently marked another success with the approval of the term extension application for the Gulf LNG project, the 17th large-scale U.S. LNG export project to receive a term extension through 2050.

The 2050 policy statement is one of several among this Administration's historic run of accomplishments in the LNG arena. The highlights include:



"U.S. LNG exports are set to continue growing for the next decade and beyond. These exports are creating jobs, reducing our trade deficit, and providing a clean and reliable energy alternative to our allies and trading partners," said Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette. "It is astonishing what we have been able to accomplish during this Administration."



Measures to provide additional regulatory certainty and reduce burdens

In June 2018, DOE issued a policy [statement affirming that the agency stands behind the long-term authorizations it has issued under the Natural Gas Act](#), approving the export of natural gas (including liquefied natural gas) to all countries where U.S. exports are permitted.

“With this statement, DOE firmly committed to the durability and stability of the export authorizations it has granted to date, and to any export authorizations issued by DOE in the future,” said Deputy Secretary of Energy Mark W. Menendez. “This statement reinforced our commitment to the sanctity of contracts and our track record of never rescinding a long-term export authorization over the objection of an authorization holder.”

In July 2018, DOE finalized a [rule providing more expeditious reviews for small volume shipments of LNG](#). This rule helps facilitate the export of smaller quantities of containerized LNG to smaller markets such as countries in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America where there is not enough natural gas demand to support large volumes of LNG imports.

In December 2018, DOE [issued a policy statement to reduce the data reporting burdens](#) on LNG export authorization holders, eliminating the requirement for exported LNG to be tracked to its final country of destination and instead only requiring the exported LNG to be tracked to the country of its initial unloading.

In December 2020, DOE [issued a policy statement](#) to eliminate the requirement for long-term LNG exporters to hold separate short-term authorizations, allowing one single long-term authorization to hold both authorities. Consolidating this authority in a single authorization without any increase in total approved export volumes will streamline DOE’s regulatory process and reduce administrative burdens.

In December 2020, DOE also [finalized a new categorical exclusion](#) for the environmental review of LNG export applications under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This new categorical exclusion for the marine transportation of LNG improves the efficiency of the DOE decision-making process by saving time and expense in the NEPA compliance process.

Updated Analyses and Efficient Regulatory Reviews

In addition to implementing those essential deregulatory initiatives, DOE also commissioned two new and updated analyses on the economic and environmental impacts of LNG exports.

The first, a [2018 macroeconomic study](#), examined the impact of LNG exports out to 2050. The second, by the Office of Fossil Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), examined the [lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from U.S. LNG exports](#).

Over the last four years, DOE has also performed the efficient review of several long-term LNG export applications and granted final long-term LNG export authorizations for exports from 12 large-scale U.S. projects. DOE has also granted permission for additional capacity to several domestic LNG export projects and to projects proposed for exporting U.S. natural gas as LNG from Mexico.

“The studies we undertook show that LNG exports will provide economic benefits to the United States through 2050 with minimal impact on domestic prices, and will also provide environmental benefits to importing countries,” said Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy Steve Winberg. “And our efficient regulatory review process has helped expand the benefits of American natural gas to the global market.”

