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April 3, 2023

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management
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 4492, 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, 2022 through March 31, 2023.

- On October 14, 2022, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) granted Rio Grande LNG’s April 6, 2022, request to extend the deadline to complete construction of the Project and place it into service by two years, or until November 22, 2028 (“Extension of Time Order”). On November 14, 2022, Sierra Club filed a request for rehearing of the Extension of Time Order. On December 15, 2022, FERC issued a notice that Sierra Club’s request for rehearing was denied by operation of law. No appeals of the Extension of Time Order were filed.
- On December 2, 2022, FERC issued its “Notice of Schedule for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment” for Rio Grande LNG’s proposed carbon capture and sequestration systems project, scheduling issuance of the Environmental Assessment for the carbon capture and sequestration systems project on May 5, 2023.
- On December 19, 2022, NextDecade entered into a binding SPA with GALP Trading, S.A. for the purchase of approximately 52,000,000 MMBtu per year of LNG from the Project, for a period of 20 years. Rio Grande LNG filed that agreement with DOE consistent with regulatory requirements.
- On December 27, 2022, NextDecade announced an increase in the total volume of LNG under the binding SPA previously executed with ENN LNG (Singapore) Pte Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of ENN Natural Gas Co., Ltd. Under the amended agreement, ENN will now purchase 2.0 MTPA of LNG, a 0.5 MTPA increase from the original 1.5 MTPA SPA announced earlier in 2022. Rio Grande LNG notified DOE of such increase consistent with regulatory requirements

- On January 19, 2023, NextDecade entered into a binding SPA with ITOCHU Corporation for the purchase of approximately 51,000,000 MMBtu (1.0 MTPA) per year of LNG from the Project, for a period of 15 years. Rio Grande LNG filed that agreement with DOE consistent with regulatory requirements.
- On January 5, 2023, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit denied the appeal filed by several parties of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, SWG-2015-00114, as modified and reinstated September 22, 2021, issued to Rio Grande LNG, LLC and Rio Bravo Pipeline, LLC.
- On March 29, 2023, NextDecade announced that it plans to acquire from the Brownsville Navigation District 1,500 acres of the Las Lomas ecological preserve to preserve and establish a permanent conservation easement, protecting the acreage in perpetuity as part of its ongoing sustainability and community commitments tied to the Rio Grande LNG project.

Consistent with Ordering Paragraph J of DOE/FE Order 3869 and Ordering Paragraph M of DOE/FE Order 4492, 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, appearing to read "David L. Wochner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David L. Wochner
Counsel for Rio Grande LNG, LLC