

U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination
Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management



CARIB ENERGY (USA) LLC
DOCKET NO. 21-99-LNG

PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Carib Energy (USA) LLC (Carib Energy) filed a Request for Amendment (Request) with the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) on September 7, 2023, and supplemented on September 21, 2023 (Supplement), seeking amendment of its existing blanket authorization¹ to engage in short-term exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) previously imported into the United States from foreign sources. Carib Energy seeks to increase its exports of foreign-sourced LNG from the equivalent of 0.48 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas to 1.4 Bcf on a cumulative basis, effective retroactively to June 1, 2023, and continuing through the end of its export term in April 2024.² The Request and Supplement were submitted pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)³ and 10 CFR Part 590 of the Department of Energy's (DOE) regulations.

As relevant here, Carib Energy is authorized to export previously-imported LNG to any countries in Central America, South America, or the Caribbean 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).⁴

DOE's proposed action is to authorize the exports described in the Request and Supplement if DOE determines that such exports are not inconsistent with the public interest. If granted, the authorization would permit the additional requested exports of previously-imported LNG in ISO containers by vessel on a short-term basis from the Crowley Facility, subject to the findings and ordering paragraphs set forth in the DOE order (Order No. 4772-A).

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.

☒ 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.

¹ *Carib Energy (USA) LLC*, DOE/FECM Order No. 4772, Docket No. 21-99-LNG, Order Granting Blanket Authorization to Export Previously Imported Liquefied Natural Gas in ISO Containers by Vessel to Free Trade Agreement And Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (Dec. 20, 2021).

² Carib Energy initially requested a retroactive date for its amendment order to July 1, 2023, but changed that date to June 1, 2023, in its Supplement filing.

³ 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

⁴ *Id.* § 717b(a). In the Request and Supplement, Carib Energy also requests authorization to export LNG in the same volume to FTA countries under NGA section 3(c), 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c), on a non-additive basis. That request is not subject to this categorical exclusion determination.

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: JAMES WARD
Digitally signed by JAMES WARD
Date: 2024.01.25 19:07:24 -05'00'

Date Determined: 1/25/2024

James Ward, NEPA Compliance Officer, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management