



# Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Exports

March 2024

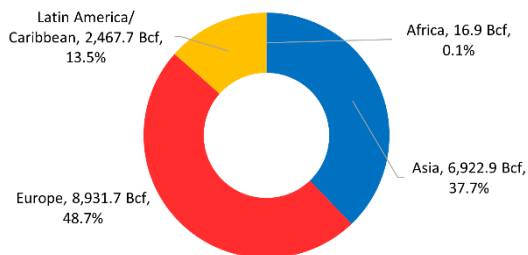
*The United States produces more natural gas than it uses, and LNG export facilities are operating or being built to deliver gas overseas. Seven large-scale and three small-scale LNG facilities have begun export operation. DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) monitors U.S. LNG trade through its regulatory role under the Natural Gas Act (NGA).*

## Overview

The United States has become the world's largest producer of natural gas, creating the opportunity for exports. Companies that want to export natural gas must get authorization from FECM. The [Natural Gas Act](#)<sup>1</sup> requires FECM to make public interest determinations on applications to export LNG to countries without free trade agreements with the U.S (non-FTA countries).

FECM also publishes information on LNG exports in its [Natural Gas Imports and Exports Monthly Report](#).<sup>2</sup> LNG exports from the Lower 48 started in 2016. As of January 2024, U.S. export terminals have sent cargos to 46 countries on five continents, mostly from large-scale facilities. Small shipments have been exported since 2016 in cryogenic ISO containers, to customers predominantly in Central America and the Caribbean.

Domestically-Produced LNG Exports by Region  
(Cumulative from Feb 2016 to Jan 2024)



## LNG Export Application Process and Activity

There are two standards of review under the NGA, based on the intended destination of LNG. Where countries have a free trade agreement with the U.S. (FTA countries), exports are deemed consistent with the public interest. The NGA directs DOE to evaluate LNG export applications to non-FTA countries. DOE is required to grant requested export authority for non-FTA countries, unless it finds the proposed exports will be inconsistent with the public interest, or where trade is prohibited by law or policy (for example, Cuba, North Korea, and Iran). DOE acts on long-term applications to non-FTA countries after completing a public interest

review that involves several criteria, such as economic and environmental reviews, including examination under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). DOE is typically a cooperating agency for review under NEPA, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) or the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) acting as the lead agency.

Obtaining a DOE authorization to export LNG to non-FTA countries is an important step for most projects in their path toward financing and construction. After comprehensive reviews, DOE has issued a total of 40 long-term LNG authorizations for any country in the world not prohibited by U.S. law or policy, in a cumulative amount of 48.6 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), as of March 31, 2024. DOE has also issued several authorizations under its Small Scale Rule, as summarized [here](#).<sup>3</sup> Currently, U.S. export capacity is more than 14 Bcf/d, and a total of almost 26 Bcf/d of capacity is in various stages of operation and construction. Some of the companies that have LNG export authorizations from DOE have not reached final investment decisions (FID) on their projects. Construction of large facilities takes years to complete

## Foundational Studies for DOE's Public Interest Reviews of LNG Exports

Historically, DOE has relied on economic and environmental studies to inform DOE's public interest review of applications for exports of LNG to non-FTA countries. The most recent economic study was conducted in 2018: NERA Economic Consulting examined the probability and macroeconomic impact of various lower-48 sourced LNG export scenarios, with exports levels determined by market forces. DOE has also commissioned environmental studies on LNG that have been carried out by the National Energy Technology Laboratory. The *Addendum to Environmental Review Documents Concerning Exports of Natural Gas from the United States* surveyed potential environmental impacts from unconventional natural gas production. The *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas from the United States* and its latest 2019 update surveyed the potential greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts of U.S. LNG exports vs. alternatives.

On January 26, 2024, DOE issued a statement that it is undertaking a process to update the economic and environmental analyses used to inform whether additional LNG export authorization requests to non-FTA countries are in the public interest under the NGA (the Update). Updating these analyses will allow DOE to use the most complete and robust information on market, economic, national security, environmental considerations, as DOE evaluates pending and future non-FTA applications. DOE has stated that, when the update is complete, DOE will provide notice of the new economic and environmental analyses in the *Federal Register* and invite public comment. More information about the Update can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 717 *et seq.*, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-868/pdf/COMPS-868.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/listings/natural-gas-imports-and-exports-monthly-reports>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/lng-trades-markets>.

and can cost billions of dollars. A complete list of long-term LNG export applications and their current status can be found in DOE's [Summary of LNG Export Applications](#).<sup>4</sup>

## LNG Facilities

Seven large-scale LNG facilities are using authorizations for export. Four other large-scale U.S. terminals with DOE authorization are under construction pursuant to FID. Terminals that have DOE authorizations report their status and construction progress to the Department twice per year, and these [Semi-Annual Reports](#)<sup>5</sup> are available on DOE's website. Customers wishing to purchase LNG from the United States can contact one of the companies authorized or seeking export authority, as listed in the [Online Docket Room](#).<sup>6</sup>

NORTH AMERICAN LARGE-SCALE LNG EXPORT PROJECTS WITH NON-FTA EXPORT AUTHORITY FROM DOE						
	Project	Volume (Bcf/d)			Initial Operation (or est.)	Construction Status
		Authorized	Under Construction Pursuant to FID	Operating		
1	Sabine Pass   <i>Cameron, LA</i>	4.55	0	4.55	Feb. 2016	Operating
2	Cove Point LNG   <i>Calvert Cty, MD</i>	0.77	0	0.77	Mar. 2018	Operating
3	Cameron   <i>Hackberry, LA</i>	3.53	0	2.12	May 2019	3 trains operating
4	Corpus Christi   <i>Corpus Christi, TX</i>	3.99	1.59	2.4	Dec. 2018	3 trains operating Stage 3 Under construction
5	Elba Island   <i>Chatham County, GA</i>	0.36	0	0.36	Sep. 2019	Operating
6	Freeport   <i>Quintana Island, TX</i>	3.10	0	2.38	Sep. 2019	3 trains operating
7	Golden Pass   <i>Sabine Pass, TX</i>	2.57	2.57	0	Mid-2025 (est.)	Under construction
8	Venture Global Calcasieu Pass   <i>Cameron, LA</i>	1.70	0	1.70	Mar. 2022	Operating
9	Lake Charles   <i>Lake Charles, LA</i>	2.33	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
10	Delfin   <i>Gulf of Mexico</i>	1.80	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
11	Port Arthur   <i>Port Arthur, TX</i>	1.91	1.91	0	2027 (est.)	Under construction
12	Driftwood   <i>Calcasieu Parish, LA</i>	3.88	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
13	Gulf LNG   <i>Jackson County, MS</i>	1.53	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
14	Venture Global Plaquemines   <i>Plaquemines Parish, LA</i>	3.40	3.40	0	Mid-2024 (est.)	Under construction
15	Rio Grande LNG   <i>Brownsville, TX</i>	3.61	2.10	0	2027 (est.)	Under construction
16	Texas LNG   <i>Brownsville, TX</i>	0.56	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
17	Alaska LNG   <i>Kenai Peninsula, AK</i>	2.55	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
	<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>42.14</b>	<b>11.57</b>	<b>14.28</b>		
18	Pieridae Energy (USA) Ltd.   <i>Nova Scotia, Canada</i>	0.80	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
19	Mexico Pacific Limited   <i>Sonora, Mexico</i>	1.7	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
20	Energia Costa Azul   <i>Ensenada, Mexico</i>	2.18	0.44	0	2025 (est.)	Phase 1 Under construction Phase 2 FID Pending
21	Epsilon LNG   <i>Sonora, Mexico</i>	1.08	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
22	Vista Pacifico LNG   <i>Sinaloa, Mexico</i>	0.55	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
	<b>NORTH AMERICA TOTAL</b>	<b>48.45<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>12.01</b>	<b>14.28</b>		

For more information, please visit <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/regulation>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/summary-lng-export-applications-lower-48-states>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/semi-annual-reporting-requirements-lng-exporters-2010-2024-dockets>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/electronic-docket-room-e-docket-room>.

<sup>7</sup> Approved amounts listed here do not include non-FTA authorizations issued to small-scale facilities, which brings the total to 48.6 Bcf/d. Additional small-scale authorizations issued specifically under DOE's Small Scale Rule are not additive to the cumulative total.