



U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Exports Fact Sheet

Natural gas is experiencing increased global demand. The United States is expected to play a major role in meeting this global demand as international markets continue to grow, driving expectations for increased U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports in the coming years.

LNG Overview

LNG is natural gas that has been treated and cooled to a liquid state to facilitate transport and storage. Liquefaction reduces the volume of natural gas by 600 times, making it more economical to store and transport long distances through the LNG Value Chain.¹

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) is responsible for carrying out DOE's regulatory responsibilities over the import and export of natural gas, including LNG, under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act. All natural gas transactions with foreign sellers and buyers must first be authorized through the rules and procedures found in 10 CFR Part 590² of DOE's regulations. For information on how to file an authorization application, visit <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/how-obtain-authorization-import-and-or-export-natural-gas-and-lng>.

Resumption of LNG Export Application Reviews

On January 20, 2025, a temporary pause³ in reviewing applications to



export LNG to non-free trade agreement (non-FTA) countries was overturned with Executive Order 14154: Unleashing American Energy.⁴ Secretary of Energy Chris Wright issued the first LNG export approval of this administration on February 14, 2025, announcing a new export authorization for the Commonwealth LNG project proposed for Cameron Parish, Louisiana.⁵ This marked the first authorization to export LNG from a U.S. project to non-FTA countries since the pause, with decisions on outstanding applications expected in the coming months and years.

United States LNG Export Market

The United States is the top global producer of natural gas and the number one exporter of LNG. There are currently eight U.S.-based operating large-scale export terminals. DOE also authorizes exports of U.S.-sourced gas as LNG from projects in Mexico.

The United States began exporting LNG from the continental 48 states in February 2016, and to date, U.S. LNG has reached 48 countries around the world. Since 2016, Europe has been the top importing region of U.S. LNG, and South Korea is the single largest importing country.

Export Growth

U.S. LNG exports are expected to grow steadily in coming years. In 2024, the

United States exported approximately 12 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of LNG, or 123 billion cubic meters per year (bcm/a). This is expected to grow to an average of 14 Bcf/d (143 bcm/a) in 2025. By the time all U.S. LNG export projects currently under construction are completed by the end of this decade, U.S. LNG exports are set to reach 26 Bcf/d (266 bcm/a). As a result, the United States is expected to remain the top global LNG exporter and exceed the export capacity of the second largest LNG exporter, Qatar, by 40 percent.

Current Authorizations

There is currently over 49 Bcf/d (501 bcm/a) in total authorized LNG exports that can go to any country not prohibited by U.S. law or policy. As the private sector determines which projects will be built, this does not mean that the United States will export the entire authorized amount. Of this authorized amount, approximately 15 Bcf/d (153 bcm/a) of export capacity is currently operating.

Learn more

To learn more about the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, sign up to receive email updates by scanning the QR code or follow us on X, Facebook, and LinkedIn. For further information about LNG exports, contact FECM and Office of International Affairs' Global Markets and Economics. ■

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¹ <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/liquefied-natural-gas-value-chain-fact-sheet>

² <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/08/f35/eCFR%20%E2%80%94%20Code%20of%20Federal%20Regulations.pdf>

³ <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/The%20Temporary%20Pause%20on%20Review%20of%20Pending%20Applications%20to%20Export%20Liquefied%20Natural%20Gas.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/unleashing-american-energy/>

⁵ https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-wright-issues-first-lng-export-approval-commonwealth-lng?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery