

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



COMMONWEALTH LNG, LLC
DOCKET NO. 19-134-LNG

PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Commonwealth LNG, LLC (Commonwealth) filed an application (Application) with the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) (formerly the Office of Fossil Energy)¹ on October 16, 2019. The Application was submitted pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)² and 10 CFR Part 590 of DOE's regulations. Commonwealth supplemented the Application on April 14, 2020, and amended the Application on September 11, 2020.

In the Application, as supplemented and amended, Commonwealth seeks long-term, multi-contract authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) in a volume up to 9.5 million metric tons per annum, which it states is equivalent to approximately 441.4 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas (1.21 Bcf per day). Commonwealth requests authorization to export the LNG by vessel from its proposed natural gas liquefaction and export facilities, to be located on the west side of the Calcasieu Ship Channel in Cameron Parish, Louisiana (Project). In relevant part, Commonwealth seeks to export this LNG to any country 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).³ In the Application, as supplemented and amended, Commonwealth requests that the export term begin on the earlier of the date of first commercial export from the Project or seven years from the date of the authorization, and extend through December 31, 2050.

On February 14, 2025, in DOE/FECM Order No. 5238, DOE conditionally granted the non-FTA portion of the Application.⁴

DOE's proposed action is to issue a final order authorizing the exports described in the Application (and conditionally authorized in Order No. 5238) if DOE determines that such exports are not inconsistent with the public interest. If granted, the authorization would permit the requested exports of domestically produced LNG by vessel from the Project to non-FTA countries, subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the DOE order.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPLIED: B5.7 - Export of natural gas and associated transportation by marine vessel

For DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B in 10 CFR Part 1021, as well as Section 5.4 and Appendices B and C of DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025).⁵

¹ The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) changed its name to the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) on July 4, 2021.

² 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

³ *Id.* § 717b(a). In the Application, Commonwealth also requests authorization to export LNG in the same volume to FTA countries under NGA section 3(c), *id.* § 717b(c), on a non-additive basis. On April 17, 2020, in Order No. 4521, DOE granted the FTA portion of the Application.

⁴ *Commonwealth LNG, LLC*, DOE/FECM Order No. 5238, Docket No. 19-134-LNG, Order Conditionally Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (Feb. 14, 2025).

⁵ DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures can be viewed at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/doe-nepa-implementing-procedures-june-2025>.

Regulatory requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, respectively:
(See full text in regulation and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures)

☒ [] The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B or C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.

☒ [] 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.

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 requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Signature: **BRIAN LAVOIE**

Digitally signed by BRIAN
LAVOIE
Date: 2025.08.29 12:44:43
-04'00'

Date Determined: **8/29/25**

Brian Lavoie, NEPA Compliance Officer, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management