

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

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RIO GRANDE LNG, LLC,  
RIO GRANDE LNG TRAIN 4, LLC,  
RIO GRANDE LNG TRAIN 5, LLC  
(formerly Rio Grande LNG, LLC)

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DOCKET NO. 15-190-LNG

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO AMEND AUTHORIZATIONS  
TO EXPORT LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS  
TO ADD AUTHORIZATION HOLDERS

DOE/FECM ORDER NO. 3869-A  
DOE/FECM ORDER NO. 4492-B

AUGUST 20, 2025

## I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On June 10, 2025, Rio Grande LNG, LLC (Rio Grande LNG), Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC (RGLNG4), and Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC (RGLNG5) (collectively, the Rio Grande Entities) submitted a Limited Amendment Application (Amendment Application)<sup>1</sup> to the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM)<sup>2</sup> of the Department of Energy (DOE).<sup>3</sup> In the Amendment Application, the Rio Grande Entities ask DOE to amend authorizations to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) currently held by Rio Grande LNG, set forth below, to add two internal corporate entities—RGLNG4 and RGLNG5—as joint authorization holders.<sup>4</sup>

Rio Grande LNG is authorized to export domestically produced LNG by vessel in a volume equivalent to 1,318 billion cubic feet per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas from the Rio Grande LNG Terminal (Terminal), which is currently under construction in Cameron County, Texas,<sup>5</sup> under the following orders:

- (i) DOE/FE Order No. 3869,<sup>6</sup> authorizing exports to any country with which the United States currently has, or in the future will have, a free trade agreement (FTA) requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas (FTA countries) for a 30-year term, pursuant to NGA section 3(c);<sup>7</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> Rio Grande LNG, LLC, *et. al.*, Application for Limited Amendment to Authorizations to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Free Trade and Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, Docket No. 15-190-LNG (June 10, 2025), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NextDecade%20-%20DOE%20Authorization%20Holder%20Amendment%20Application.pdf> [hereinafter Amendment App.].

<sup>2</sup> The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) changed its name to the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) on July 4, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> The authority to regulate the imports and exports of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), under section 3 of the NGA (15 U.S.C. § 717b) has been delegated to the Assistant Secretary for FECM in Redelegation Order No. S4- DEL-FE1-2023, issued on April 10, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Amendment App. at 1-2; *see also id.* at 5.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 1, 5.

<sup>6</sup> *Rio Grande LNG, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 3869, Docket No. 15-190-LNG, Order Granting Long-Term, Multi-Contract Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas by Vessel from the Proposed Rio Grande LNG Terminal in Brownsville, Texas, to Free Trade Agreement Nations (Aug. 17, 2016).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c). The United States currently has FTAs requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas with Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan,

- (ii) DOE/FE Order No. 4492, as amended,<sup>8</sup> authorizing exports to any other country with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy (non-FTA countries) for a term extending through December 31, 2050, pursuant to NGA section 3(a).<sup>9</sup>

Under these authorizations, the FTA and non-FTA volumes are not additive.

As discussed below, DOE grants the Rio Grande Entities' Amendment Application to add RGLNG4 and RGLNG5 as authorization holders to both authorizations.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST**

### **A. Description of Corporate Entities**

Rio Grande LNG is a Texas limited liability company authorized to do business in the State of Texas.<sup>10</sup> Rio Grande LNG is indirectly and wholly-owned by NextDecade Corporation (a Delaware corporation); GIP V Velocity Acquisition Partners, L.P.; Devonshire Investment Pte. Ltd.; Global LNG North America Corp.; and MIC TI Holding Company 2 RSC Limited.<sup>11</sup>

The Rio Grande Entities state that RGLNG4 and RGLNG5 are each a Delaware limited liability company authorized to do business in the State of Texas, with the same principal place of business as Rio Grande LNG.<sup>12</sup> RGLNG4 and RGLNG5 are both wholly-owned subsidiaries of NextDecade LNG, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NextDecade Corporation.<sup>13</sup>

The Rio Grande Entities state that their requested amendment "does not implicate DOE's

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Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, and Singapore. FTAs with Israel and Costa Rica do not require national treatment for trade in natural gas.

<sup>8</sup> *Rio Grande LNG, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4492, Docket No. 15-190-LNG, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (Feb. 10, 2020), *amended by* DOE/FE Order No. 4492-A (Oct. 21, 2020) (extending export term).

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a).

<sup>10</sup> Amendment App. at 2.

<sup>11</sup> *See id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

Change in Control Procedures as it involves no new external or foreign upstream owners.”<sup>14</sup>

They point out that RGLNG 4 and RGLNG5 are affiliates of Rio Grande LNG and share an ultimate parent company, NextDecade Corporation.<sup>15</sup> Upon review of the facts, we agree that the requested amendment does not constitute a change in control under DOE’s regulations governing the transfer or assignment of authorizations (10 C.F.R. § 590.405) and DOE’s Change in Control Procedures.<sup>16</sup>

## **B. Request to Add Authorization Holders**

The Rio Grande Entities ask DOE to grant “a limited administrative amendment” to add RGLNG4 and RGLNG5 as authorization holders to Rio Grande LNG’s existing authorizations, Order Nos. 3869 and 4492, as amended.<sup>17</sup> The Rio Grande Entities state that “RGLNG4 and RGLNG5 are special purpose entities created for the purpose of owning Train 4 and Train 5, respectively, in order to facilitate financing and the continued development of the Terminal.”<sup>18</sup> They further state that Rio Grande LNG continues to own the first three liquefaction trains (Trains 1-3) at the Terminal.<sup>19</sup>

The Rio Grande Entities also state that, on May 23, 2024, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an order authorizing the partial transfer of Rio Grande LNG’s FERC authorization for the Rio Grande LNG Terminal to RGLNG4 and RGLNG5 (the FERC Partial

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<sup>14</sup> See *id.* at 5 & n.16 (citing U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Procedures for Changes in Control Affecting Applications and Authorizations to Import or Export Natural Gas, 79 Fed. Reg. 65,541 (Nov. 5, 2014) [hereinafter Change in Control Procedures]); see also *id.* at 2.

<sup>15</sup> Amendment App. at 5-6.

<sup>16</sup> See, e.g., U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Response to Notification of Change in Ownership Structure by Venture Global Calcasieu Pass, LLC, *et al.*, Docket Nos. 13-69-LNG, *et al.*, at 4 n.26 (May 24, 2024) (an internal corporate reorganization resulting in a new entity is not a change in control).

<sup>17</sup> Amendment App. at 1-2; see also *id.* at 5-6.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

Transfer Order).<sup>20</sup> The Rio Grande Entities assert that including RGLNG4 and RGLNG5 as authorization holders in this proceeding “will serve to better align” the DOE export authorizations with the ownership of the Terminal and the FERC Partial Transfer Order.<sup>21</sup>

Finally, the Rio Grande Entities maintain that the requested amendment “is a purely administrative modification” that “will have no effect on the grounds underlying the public interest determinations previously made by DOE/FECM in issuing the DOE Authorizations.”<sup>22</sup>

### **III. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

The requested amendment to Rio Grande LNG’s FTA authorization, DOE/FE Order No. 3869, is deemed consistent with the public interest under NGA section 3(c), and is granted below.<sup>23</sup>

Additionally, DOE finds good cause to grant the Amendment Application for Rio Grande LNG’s non-FTA authorization, DOE/FE Order No. 4492, as amended. We agree with the Rio Grande Entities that the addition of RGLNG4 and RGLNG5 as joint authorization holders is an administrative modification that has no effect on the public interest determination previously made by DOE in granting Order No. 4492 under NGA section 3(a).<sup>24</sup> We further find that this amendment is supported by the FERC Partial Transfer Order.

### **ORDER**

Pursuant to sections 3 and 16 of the Natural Gas Act, it is ordered that:

A. DOE/FE Order Nos. 3869 and 4492, as amended, are amended to add Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC and Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC as authorization holders.

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<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 4 & n.12 (citing, e.g., *Rio Grande LNG, LLC, Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC & Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC*, Order Authorizing Partial Transfer of NGA Section 3 Authorization, 187 FERC ¶ 61,097 (May 23, 2024)).

<sup>21</sup> Amendment App. at 5.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 6-7 (summarizing public interest considerations evaluated by DOE in original authorizations).

<sup>23</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c).

<sup>24</sup> *Id.* § 717b(a); *see* Amendment App. at 6 -7.

B. All obligations, rights, and responsibilities established by DOE/FE Order Nos. 3869 and 4492, as amended, now apply to Rio Grande LNG, LLC, Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC, and Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC as joint authorization holders.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on August 20, 2025.

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Amy Sweeney  
Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement  
Office of Resource Sustainability