

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



SOUTHERN LNG COMPANY, L.L.C.
DOCKET NO. 12-100-LNG

PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Southern LNG Company, L.L.C. (SLNG) filed an application (Amendment Application) with the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM)¹ on July 31, 2025, pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)² and 10 CFR Part 590 of the Department of Energy's (DOE) regulations. SLNG supplemented the Amendment Application on September 11, 2025.

In the Amendment Application, as supplemented, SLNG seeks to amend its existing long-term authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) under DOE/FE Order No. 3956, as amended.³ Under Order No. 3956, as amended, SLNG is authorized to export LNG by vessel, in a volume equivalent to 130 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas, 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).⁴

In the Amendment Application, as supplemented, SLNG asks DOE to further amend Order No. 3956 so that it also includes both ship-to-ship transfers of U.S.-sourced LNG for use as a marine fuel when the receiving ship is located within the territorial seas of a foreign country (including in foreign ports), as determined by that country and recognized by the United States; and transfers of LNG into approved International Organization for Standardization (ISO) containers, which are then loaded onto ocean-going vessels for export.

DOE's proposed action is to grant the requested amendment to Order No. 3956, as previously amended. If granted, SLNG will be authorized to export domestically produced LNG in three ways: (i) by vessel, (ii) in approved ISO containers loaded onto vessels, and (iii) loaded into bunkering vessels for ship-to-ship transfers for use as a marine fuel when the receiving ship is located within the territorial sea of a foreign country (including in foreign ports), as determined by that country and recognized by the United States, subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in Order No. 3956, as amended, including the DOE order granting the Amendment Application.

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 on July 4, 2021.

² 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

³ *Southern LNG Co., L.L.C.*, DOE/FE Order No. 3956, Docket No. 12-100-LNG, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term, Multi-Contract Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas by Vessel from the Elba Island Terminal in Chatham County, Georgia to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (Dec. 16, 2016), *amended by* DOE/FE Order No. 3956-A (Dec. 30, 2020) (extending export term).

⁴ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a). Under DOE/FE Order No. 3106, as amended, Docket No. 12-54-LNG, SLNG is also authorized to export 182.5 Bcf/yr of LNG to FTA countries under NGA section 3(c), 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c), on a non-additive basis. In the Amendment Application, SLNG also requests amendment of both Order No. 3106 and its pending application for export to non-FTA countries in DOE/FECM Docket No. 23-109-LNG. Neither SLNG's requested amendment of Order No. 3106, nor its requested amendment of that pending application, is subject to this categorical exclusion determination.

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: 2025.12.22 11:59:03 -05'00'

Date Determined: 12/22/25

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