

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

LOUISIANA LNG INFRASTRUCTURE LLC

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DOCKET NO. 16-144-LNG

ORDER AMENDING LONG-TERM AUTHORIZATION
TO EXPORT LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS
TO NON-FREE TRADE AGREEMENT COUNTRIES

DOE/FECM ORDER NO. 4373-C

DECEMBER 16, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	1
II.	STANDARD OF REVIEW	5
III.	DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST	5
	A. Project Development to Date	6
	B. Inability to Meet the Current Export Commencement Deadline	8
IV.	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	9
	A. Grant of Requested Export Commencement Extension	9
	B. Environmental Review	12
	C. Conclusion	12
V.	ORDER	13

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On May 29, 2025, Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC (Louisiana LNG) filed with the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM)¹ a “Request for Extension of Export Commencement Deadline” (Request)² under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA).³ As discussed below, Louisiana LNG, a subsidiary of Woodside Energy Group Ltd. (Woodside Energy),⁴ is requesting an extension of the deadline set forth in its existing long-term authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG)—specifically, to extend the deadline to commence exports from May 2, 2026, to December 31, 2029.⁵

Under DOE/FE Order No. 4373, as amended,⁶ Louisiana LNG is authorized to export LNG in a volume equivalent to 1,415.3 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas (3.88 Bcf per day (Bcf/d)) from the Woodside Louisiana LNG Project (Liquefaction Project or Project),⁷ currently under construction in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. Louisiana LNG is authorized to export this LNG to any country with which the United States has not entered into a

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

² Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC, Request for Extension of Export Commencement Deadline, Docket No. 16-144-LNG (May 29, 2025) [hereinafter Request].

³ 15 U.S.C. § 717b. The authority to regulate the imports and exports of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas, 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.

⁴ See Request at 2; *see also id.* at 1 n.1.

⁵ *Id.* at 1-2, 6.

⁶ *Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4373, Docket No. 16-144-LNG, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (May 2, 2019), *amended by* DOE/FE Order No. 4373-A (Dec. 10, 2020) (extending export term), *further amended by* DOE/FECM Order No. 4373-B (Feb. 26, 2025) (changing name of authorization holder from Driftwood LNG LLC to Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC). In light of Woodside Energy’s acquisition of Louisiana LNG from Tellurian Inc. and the resulting corporate name change from Driftwood LNG LLC to Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC, and DOE’s approval of this change, this Order references the non-FTA authorization as having been issued in the name of Louisiana LNG. See Request at 1 n.1.

⁷ The initial order authorized exports from the proposed Driftwood LNG Facility. In conjunction with the acquisition and corporate name change referenced above, the export project is now known as the Woodside Louisiana LNG Project. See *Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4373-B, at 3-4; *see also* Request at 1.

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),⁸ for a term extending through December 31, 2050.⁹

On April 18, 2019, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an order authorizing: (i) Louisiana LNG to site, construct and operate the Liquefaction Project, and (ii) Louisiana LNG's affiliate, Driftwood Pipeline LLC, to construct and operate its related Driftwood Pipeline Project (collectively, Projects).¹⁰ Louisiana LNG's authorized exports of 1,415.3 Bcf/yr of natural gas reflect the "optimized estimated LNG production capacity" of the Project as approved by FERC.¹¹ FERC initially required Louisiana LNG and its affiliate to complete construction of the Projects and make them available for service within seven years of the date of the FERC Order (*i.e.*, by April 18, 2026).¹²

FERC Extension Proceedings. At the request of Louisiana LNG and its affiliate, FERC has extended the original construction and in-service deadline for the Projects twice to date:

- On February 15, 2024, FERC issued an order granting the first extension until April 18, 2029;¹³ and

⁸ See *Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4373-A; see also U.S. Dep't of Energy, Extending Natural Gas Export Authorizations to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries Through the Year 2050; Notice of Final Policy Statement and Response to Comments, 85 Fed. Reg. 52,237 (Aug. 25, 2020).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a); see Request at 1. Under DOE/FE Order No. 3968, Louisiana LNG is authorized to export the same volume of LNG on non-additive basis to FTA countries under NGA section 3(c), 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c), but that authorization is not at issue in this proceeding. See Request at 2 n.3. 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, 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.

¹⁰ *Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC, et al.*, Order Granting Authorizations Under Sections 3 and 7 of the Natural Gas Act, 167 FERC ¶ 61,054 (Apr. 18, 2019), https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20190418-3085 [hereinafter FERC Authorization Order]. As with the DOE orders, we refer to the FERC orders discussed herein as having been issued in the name of Louisiana LNG. Driftwood Pipeline, LLC did not undergo a name change.

¹¹ See *Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4373, at 3.

¹² See FERC Authorization Order at 45 (Ordering Paras. B(1), (D)(1)).

¹³ *Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC, et al.*, Order Granting Extension of Time Request, FERC Docket Nos. CP17-117-001, *et al.*, 186 FERC ¶ 61,112 (Feb. 15, 2024), https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20240215-3056 [hereinafter 2024 FERC Ext. Order].

- On June 12, 2025—shortly after Louisiana LNG filed the Request in this proceeding—FERC issued an order granting a second extension (FERC 2025 Extension Order).¹⁴ DOE takes administrative notice of this FERC order, which gives Louisiana LNG and its affiliate “until and including December 31, 2029 to complete construction of [the] Woodside Louisiana LNG and Driftwood Pipeline Projects and make them available for service.”¹⁵

FERC granted this most recent extension “[b]ased on the facts presented in the request and the case record,” including evidence that the Project is “actively under construction” and that “a minor extension of time is necessary to more accurately reflect the status of Project construction after Woodside Energy’s acquisition of Tellurian.”¹⁶

DOE Extension Proceeding. Under Order No. 4373, DOE required Louisiana LNG to “commence export operations using the planned liquefaction facilities no later than seven years from the date of issuance of this Order”—*i.e.*, by May 2, 2026.¹⁷ In the Request, Louisiana LNG asks DOE to amend this export commencement deadline to align it with the December 31, 2029 construction and in-service deadline then-pending and now approved in the 2025 FERC Extension Order.¹⁸ Thus, the Request, if granted, would extend Louisiana LNG’s current export commencement deadline by approximately 44 months (*i.e.*, 3 years and 8 months), to December 31, 2029.¹⁹ The end date of the order—December 31, 2050—would remain the same.²⁰

On June 17, 2025, DOE published a Notice of Request (Notice) in the *Federal Register*.²¹ DOE invited the public to submit protests, motions to intervene, notices of intervention, and

¹⁴ *Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC, et al.*, Letter Order Granting Request for Extension of Time, FERC Docket Nos. CP17-117-003, *et al.* (June 12, 2025), https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20250612-3043 [hereinafter FERC 2025 Ext. Order].

¹⁵ *Id.* at 2 (emphasis added).

¹⁶ *Id.* (summarizing evidence to support extension); *see also supra* note 6 (corporate acquisition).

¹⁷ *See Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4373, at 63 (Term & Condition B), 68 (Ordering Para. D); *see also* Request at 1.

¹⁸ *See* Request at 4.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 1-2, 6.

²⁰ *See* DOE/FE Order No. 4373-A, *supra* note 6.

²¹ U.S. Dep’t of Energy, *Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC; Request for Extension of Export Commencement Deadline*, 90 Fed. Reg. 25,607 (June 17, 2025).

written comments in response to the Notice by July 17, 2025.²² DOE received no filings in response to the Notice, and therefore the Request is uncontested.²³

With respect to Louisiana LNG's Request, DOE recently affirmed that it "will consider applications to extend an authorization holder's export commencement deadline and grant such extensions for good cause shown on a case-by-case basis."²⁴ Upon review of the record, and for the reasons set forth below, DOE finds that Louisiana LNG has shown good cause for the requested extension.

Amendment to Establish Make-Up Period. Additionally, to align the authorization with DOE's current practice, DOE has determined that it is necessary and appropriate to allow three additional years for Louisiana LNG to export the approved non-FTA volume of LNG under Order No. 4373 (a total of 1,415.3 Bcf/yr of natural gas) beyond the export term ending on December 31, 2050, solely to export any approved volume of LNG that it is unable to export during the original export term (the Make-Up Volume).²⁵ This three-year term during which the Make-Up Volume may be exported, known as the Make-Up Period, will extend through December 31, 2053, as reflected in the amendments below.²⁶

²² See *id.* DOE finds that the requirement for public notice of applications in 10 C.F.R. Part 590 is applicable only to non-FTA applications under NGA section 3(a).

²³ See 10 C.F.R. § 590.102(b).

²⁴ U.S. Dep't of Energy, Rescission of Policy Statement on Export Commencement Deadlines in Authorizations to Export Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries, 90 Fed. Reg. 14,411 (Apr. 2, 2025) [hereinafter Rescission Notice]. Previously, on April 21, 2023, DOE issued a "Policy Statement on Export Commencement Deadlines" for non-FTA authorizations (Policy Statement), which established mandatory criteria that an authorization holder must meet for DOE to consider an export commencement extension. However, on April 2, 2025, DOE rescinded the Policy Statement in the Rescission Notice, stating that DOE was returning to its prior practice of granting such extensions upon a showing of good cause on a case-by-case basis. *Id.*

²⁵ See *supra* note 6 (Order No. 4373-A extending the original export term under the authorization to Dec. 31, 2050). For a discussion of the background of the Make-Up Period and DOE's decision to reinstate the Make-Up Period through December 31, 2053, for long-term non-FTA authorizations, see *Port Arthur LNG Phase II, LLC*, DOE/FECM Order No. 5292-A, Docket No. 20-23-LNG, Order Amending Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (June 30, 2025), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/ord5292-A.pdf>.

²⁶ Louisiana LNG is not permitted to increase its annual non-FTA export volume under this order over the three-year Make-Up Period, absent appropriate authorization by DOE. See *infra* § V (Ordering Para. C).

Categorical Exclusion. DOE’s procedures for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)²⁷ provide for a categorical exclusion if neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required—specifically, categorical exclusion B5.7, *Export of natural gas and associated transportation by marine vessel*.²⁸ On December 12, 2025, DOE issued a categorical exclusion determination for these amendments to Louisiana LNG’s non-FTA authorization (Order No. 4373, as amended) under this provision.²⁹

II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

As relevant here, NGA section 3(a) authorizes the exportation of natural gas from the United States to non-FTA countries unless, after opportunity for hearing, DOE “finds that the proposed exportation . . . will not be consistent with the public interest.”³⁰ DOE also “may from time to time, after opportunity for hearing, and for good cause shown, make such supplemental order in the premises as it may find necessary or appropriate.”³¹ Additionally, under NGA section 16, DOE may “prescribe, issue, make, amend, and rescind such orders . . . as it may find necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this chapter.”³² Before reaching a final decision on an application, DOE must also comply with NEPA.³³

III. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

Louisiana LNG asks DOE to “grant an approximately 44-month extension of time of the export commencement deadline in its Non-FTA Authorization [Order No. 4373, as amended] so

²⁷ 42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*

²⁸ See 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, Subpt. D, App. B, Categorical Exclusion B5.7.

²⁹ U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Categorical Exclusion Determination, Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC, Docket No. 16-144-LNG (Dec. 12, 2025).

³⁰ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a).

³¹ *Id.*

³² *Id.* § 717o; see also, e.g., *Appalachian Voices v. Fed. Energy Regul. Comm’n*, 139 F.4th 903 (D.C. Cir. 2025) (holding that FERC reasonably concluded that good cause existed to extend deadline to construct natural gas pipeline facilities and denying petition for review, citing NGA § 16 and FERC regulations).

³³ See *Sierra Club v. U.S. Dep’t of Energy*, 867 F.3d 189, 192 (D.C. Cir. 2017).

that it may commence exports from the Project by December 31, 2029.”³⁴ Louisiana LNG notes that this requested extension “is submitted in parallel to the [2025] extension request to FERC,” and thus proposes to align Louisiana LNG’s NGA authorizations from both agencies “in terms of approved timeframes.”³⁵

A. Project Development to Date

In describing its progress toward developing the Project, Louisiana LNG states that, on April 29, 2025, less than seven months after closing the transaction to acquire the Project from Tellurian Inc., Woodside Energy announced that it had made a positive final investment decision (FID) for the foundation development of the Project, which includes the first three liquefaction trains and common infrastructure.³⁶ According to Louisiana LNG, this “\$17.5 billion investment in the Project represents the largest single foreign direct investment in the State of Louisiana’s history, and is the first greenfield U.S. LNG project to make FID since 2023”—thus “demonstra[ting] not only the economic viability of the Project, but [also] that Louisiana LNG has achieved a major milestone in the development of the Project.”³⁷

Louisiana LNG further states that, “[o]ver the past three years, construction and development of the Woodside Louisiana LNG Project [have] progressed continuously.”³⁸

According to Louisiana LNG, its efforts have included, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conducted site preparation, vegetation clearing and burning, excavation and backfill, mud mat installation, pile driving, stormwater management, installation of the material offloading facility tie-back wall, construction of water wells, concrete foundation pouring, and rebar/formwork in the first liquefaction train and LNG storage tanks;

³⁴ Request at 6; *see also id.* at 1-2.

³⁵ *Id.* at 4.

³⁶ *Id.* at 2.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ *Id.* at 3.

- Currently employing 400 personnel (with that number expected to increase significantly as a result of reaching FID);
- Made significant capital investment of over \$2 billion in the Project; and
- Received and is maintaining all required permits and authorizations necessary for the Project.³⁹

Addressing the commercialization of the Project, Louisiana LNG states that it “continues to work to attract partners for both offtake agreements as well as equity sell-downs for the Project.”⁴⁰ As one example, Louisiana LNG states that it recently executed a long-term LNG sale and purchase agreement with Uniper Global Commodities SE “for up to 1 million [metric tons] per annum [mtpa] of LNG from the Project.”⁴¹ Additionally, on November 21, 2025 (following the filing of the Request), Louisiana LNG submitted to DOE a sale and purchase agreement signed with Williams Louisiana LNG LLC for the purchase of approximately 1.5 mtpa of LNG for 20 years from the Project.⁴²

Louisiana LNG states that these activities demonstrate that it “has made substantial progress toward the development of the Project,” and that “there is significant evidence demonstrating good cause for the extension of time.”⁴³ Louisiana LNG further states that the requested extension “changes only the timing, not the nature, of the Project.”⁴⁴ For this reason,

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ Request at 3.

⁴¹ *Id.* at 4 & n.18 (citing Louisiana LNG’s submission of LNG sale and purchase agreement to DOE dated May 9, 2025, and related press release dated April 17, 2025).

⁴² See Woodside Energy Group Ltd., “Woodside announces Louisiana LNG Partnership with Williams” (Oct. 23, 2025), https://www.woodside.com/docs/default-source/asx-announcements/2025/woodside-announces-louisiana-lng-partnership-with-williams.pdf?sfvrsn=762538b5_1; see also <https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/woodside-louisiana-lng-project> (letter posted for contract No. 7).

⁴³ Request at 2.

⁴⁴ *Id.* at 5.

according to Louisiana LNG, “there are no changes to DOE/FECM’s public interest determinations nor any of its conclusions underlying [Order No. 4373].”⁴⁵

B. Inability to Meet the Current Export Commencement Deadline

Louisiana LNG states that, despite its significant progress, it encountered “unforeseen circumstances” following DOE’s issuance of Order No. 4373, which “prevent[ed] it from meeting the export commencement deadline therein.”⁴⁶

First, Louisiana LNG contends that it faced “cascading market and logistical impacts on workforce, safety, supply chain, and investment infrastructure projects” due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁷ Next, Louisiana LNG states that a legal challenge to its U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit “created headwinds with respect to Louisiana LNG’s ability to secure final commercial and financial commitments for the Project.”⁴⁸ According to Louisiana LNG, the resulting circumstances “caused unforeseeable difficulties for development of the Project and made securing long-term LNG commercial commitments difficult for several years.”⁴⁹ Louisiana LNG maintains, however, that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ultimately upheld Louisiana LNG’s USACE permit; the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided; global energy markets have rebounded; and geopolitical tensions have increased demand for LNG deliveries from the United States to European markets.⁵⁰

Louisiana LNG further argues that potential equity investors and offtake customers “require regulatory certainty” that its deadline to commence non-FTA exports under Order No.

⁴⁵ *Id.* at 5-6; *see also id.* at 6 (summarizing evidence and asserting that the requested extension “will assist with the orderly development of the Project, and result in LNG exports that DOE/FECM has already found to be consistent with the public interest”).

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 3.

⁴⁷ *Id.*.

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ Request at 3.

⁵⁰ *Id.* at 3-4 (citations omitted).

4373 “will align with other Project milestones, including, but not limited to, the [FERC] deadline for completion of construction and placing the Project in-service.”⁵¹ Therefore, citing DOE precedent, Louisiana LNG requests an export commencement deadline of December 31, 2029—which (as discussed above) is the same deadline as the construction and in-service deadline for the Project granted by FERC on June 12, 2025.⁵²

IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Grant of Requested Export Commencement Extension

Louisiana LNG asserts that it has demonstrated good cause for an extension of the export commencement deadline set forth in its non-FTA authorization—from May 2, 2026, to December 31, 2029.

As noted above, FERC recently issued an order extending Louisiana LNG’s construction and in-service deadline for the Project to December 31, 2029,⁵³ and Louisiana LNG’s requested commencement extension would align these FERC and DOE deadlines. Although DOE has the responsibility to independently evaluate any application to extend the deadline by which exports must commence from the Project (and the discretion to impose a different deadline than FERC), we nonetheless find FERC’s grant of the extension to be a compelling factor. FERC closely oversees Louisiana LNG’s activities in advancing the construction and operation of the Project.⁵⁴ Based on the same facts submitted to DOE in the Request, FERC determined that an extension of the construction and in-service deadline to December 31, 2029, was appropriate.

Next, we find that Louisiana LNG has presented uncontested evidence that it has made substantial progress in developing its Project through a variety of commercial, financial, legal,

⁵¹ *Id.* at 5.

⁵² See FERC 2025 Ext. Order, *supra* note 14.

⁵³ See *id.*

⁵⁴ See, e.g., FERC Field Inspection Report (July 30, 2025), https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20250829-3007&optimized=false&sid=ff98a435-a662-43c2-bf63-8a14b7890d08.

and physical efforts. This year alone, Woodside Energy made a positive FID for the first three liquefaction trains and common infrastructure of the Project, and also executed two long-term commercial agreements for a total of 2.5 mtpa of LNG from the Project.⁵⁵ These important milestones support Louisiana LNG’s assertion that it “‘has worked diligently to develop’” the Project and “‘requires the [commencement] extension to complete the construction and place the export facilities into service.’”⁵⁶

Moreover, in the Request, Louisiana LNG describes a variety of “unforeseen circumstances” to explain its need for this extension, including—but not limited to—adverse market conditions and logistical issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, legal challenges to its USACE permit, and revised schedule milestones following Woodside Energy’s acquisition of Tellurian Inc.⁵⁷ We are persuaded that these delays created significant uncertainty that affected Louisiana LNG’s ability to commercialize the Project, in turn impairing its ability to develop the Project for several years. We also find that Louisiana LNG has pressed forward with a variety of efforts to advance the Project with the goal of commencing exports before its existing export commencement deadline expires on May 2, 2026, but was unsuccessful due to circumstances outside of its control.⁵⁸

Additionally, DOE agrees with Louisiana LNG that extending the deadline to commence non-FTA exports from the Project does not alter DOE’s public interest determination in granting

⁵⁵ See *supra* at 6-7.

⁵⁶ Request at 5 & n.27 (quoting *Port Arthur LNG, LLC*, Order Granting Application to Extend Term to Begin Exports of Liquefied Natural Gas to Free Trade Agreement Countries and to Extend Deadline to Commence Exports of Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries, DOE/FECM Order Nos. 3698-C and 4372-B, Docket Nos. 15-53-LNG, *et al.*, at 12-13 (Apr. 21, 2023)).

⁵⁷ *Id.* at 3-4.

⁵⁸ See, e.g., *Appalachian Voices v. Fed. Energy Regul. Comm’n*, 139 F.4th 903, 913 (D.C. Cir. 2025) (in examining reasons for delay under FERC’s good cause standard for extensions, FERC “has found a wide range of circumstances to support good cause”).

Order No. 4373, as amended, under NGA section 3(a).⁵⁹ No facts associated with Louisiana LNG’s original non-FTA application, and no requirements of the non-FTA authorization, are affected by this extension beyond the additional time period for Louisiana LNG to commence export operations. Indeed, because the term of Louisiana LNG’s non-FTA authorization ends on December 31, 2050, and its annual authorized export volume is fixed at 1,415.3 Bcf/yr of natural gas, a grant of the Request will postpone the commencement deadline and thus could result in a *lower* total volume of LNG exports over the term of the authorization. The requested extension also does not affect the cumulative volume of non-FTA exports that DOE has approved to date.⁶⁰

Nonetheless, based on the evidence discussed herein, we find that the requested extension would support the economic and energy security benefits identified by DOE in approving the exports in Order No. 4373. To the extent more recent data is relevant, we agree with Louisiana LNG that DOE’s 2024 LNG Export Study⁶¹ supports continued exports of U.S. LNG on the basis of far-reaching positive benefits to the U.S. economy and energy security.⁶²

DOE recently observed that, to demonstrate good cause for an export commencement extension, “it is sufficient for an authorization holder to demonstrate that it has made good faith efforts to meet its existing export commencement deadline but encountered circumstances that

⁵⁹ See Request at 5-6.

⁶⁰ See *Venture Global CP2 LNG, LLC*, DOE/FECM Order No. 5264-A, Docket No. 21-131-LNG, Final Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, at 58-63 (Oct. 21, 2025).

⁶¹ See U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management, *Energy, Economic, & Environmental Assessment of U.S. LNG Exports* (Dec. 2024), <https://fossil.energy.gov/app/docketindex/docket/index/30> [hereinafter 2024 LNG Export Study or 2024 Study] (providing links).

⁶² See Request at 6; see also U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management, *Energy, Economic, and Environmental Assessment of U.S. LNG Exports: Response to Comments*, at 46-48 (May 19, 2025), https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/ENERGY%20ECONOMIC%20AND%20ENVIRONMENTAL%20ASSESSMENT%20OF%20U.S.%20LNG%20EXPORTS_RESPONSE%20TO%20COMMENTS_0.pdf. Although the 2024 Study included an environmental analysis, DOE has determined that it is appropriate to rely “only on the economic analysis in the 2024 Study, as well as DOE’s related findings on energy security.” *Venture Global Calcasieu Pass, LLC*, DOE/FECM Order No. 4346-B, Docket No. 15-25-LNG, Order Amending Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, at 15-16 (Aug. 4, 2025).

prevented it from doing so.”⁶³ For the reasons set forth above, we find that Louisiana LNG has met this standard.

B. Environmental Review

DOE’s NEPA procedures provide for a categorical exclusion if neither an environmental assessment (EA) nor an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required—specifically, categorical exclusion B5.7, *Export of natural gas and associated transportation by marine vessel*.⁶⁴ On December 12, 2025, DOE issued a categorical exclusion determination for these amendments to Louisiana LNG’s non-FTA authorization.⁶⁵

C. Conclusion

Because we find that Louisiana LNG has demonstrated good cause for the requested extension of time to commence non-FTA exports from the Woodside Louisiana LNG Project, we grant the extension to December 31, 2029.

Additionally, as discussed above, DOE finds it necessary and appropriate to amend the authorization to provide three additional years for Louisiana LNG to export the approved non-FTA volume of LNG under Order No. 4373 (a total of 1,415.3 Bcf/yr of natural gas) beyond the export term for the authorization ending on December 31, 2050 (Make-Up Period).⁶⁶ During this Make-Up Period, which will extend through December 31, 2053, Louisiana LNG will be permitted to export any approved volume of LNG that it is unable to export during the original export term (the Make-Up Volume).⁶⁷

⁶³ *Lake Charles LNG Export Co., LLC*, DOE/FECM Order Nos. 3868-E and 4010-E, Docket Nos. 13-04-LNG and 16-109-LNG, Order Amending Long-Term Authorizations to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries, at 35 (Aug. 22, 2025).

⁶⁴ See 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, Subpt. D, App. B, Categorical Exclusion B5.7.

⁶⁵ See Categorical Exclusion Determination, *supra* note 29.

⁶⁶ 15 U.S.C. § 717o; see *supra* note 6 (citing DOE/FE Order No. 4373-A, which extended the export term for the order through December 31, 2050).

⁶⁷ See *supra* at 4-5.

V. ORDER

Pursuant to sections 3 and 16 of the Natural Gas Act, DOE hereby orders as follows:

A. Term and Condition A (“Term of the Authorization”) of Order No. 4373, as amended, is further amended to state as follows:

Consistent with DOE’s practice, DOE will grant Louisiana LNG’s authorization for a term to commence on the date of first export from the Woodside Louisiana LNG Project and to extend through December 31, 2050 (established in DOE/FE Order No. 4373-A). Louisiana LNG will be permitted to continue exporting the approved volume of LNG for a total of three years following the end of its export term on December 31, 2050, solely to export any approved volume of LNG that it is unable to export during the original export term (the Make-Up Volume). The three-year term during which the Make-Up Volume may be exported, known as the Make-Up Period, will extend through December 31, 2053.

This amended Term and Condition Paragraph A supersedes Term and Condition Paragraph A in DOE/FE Order No. 4373, as previously amended, in its entirety.

B. Term and Condition B (“Commencement of Operations”) of Order No. 4373 is amended to state as follows:

DOE will add as a condition of the authorization that Louisiana LNG must commence LNG export operations no later than December 31, 2029. The purpose of this condition is to ensure that other entities that may seek similar authorizations are not frustrated

in their efforts to obtain those authorizations by authorization holders that are not engaged in actual export or re-export operations.

This amended Term and Condition Paragraph B supersedes Term and Condition Paragraph B in DOE/FE Order No. 4373 in its entirety.

C. Ordering Paragraph A of Order No. 4373, as amended, is further amended to state as follows:

Louisiana LNG Infrastructure LLC (Louisiana LNG) is authorized to export domestically produced LNG by vessel from the Woodside Louisiana LNG Project located in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, in a volume equivalent to 1,415.3 Bcf/yr of natural gas for a term commencing on the date of first export and extending through December 31, 2050. Louisiana LNG may continue exporting any Make-Up Volume for a three-year Make-Up Period following this export term, *i.e.*, through December 31, 2053.⁶⁸ Louisiana LNG is authorized to export this LNG on its own behalf and as agent for other entities that hold title to the natural gas, pursuant to one or more contracts of any duration.⁶⁹

This amended Ordering Paragraph A supersedes Ordering Paragraph A in Order No. 4373, as previously amended, in its entirety.

D. Ordering Paragraph D of Order No. 4373 is amended to state as follows:

⁶⁸ See Term & Condition A of Order No. 4373, as amended, *supra* at 13. This three-year Make-Up Period does not affect or modify Louisiana LNG's approved FTA or non-FTA volumes (a combined total of 1,415.3 Bcf/yr of natural gas). Insofar as Louisiana LNG may seek to export additional volumes not previously authorized, it will be required to obtain appropriate authorization from DOE.

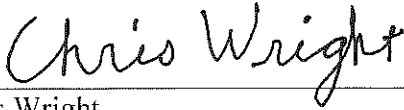
⁶⁹ See U.S. Dep't of Energy, Including Short-Term Export Authority in Long-Term Authorizations for the Export of Natural Gas on a Non-Additive Basis, 86 Fed. Reg. 2243 (Jan. 12, 2021).

Louisiana LNG must commence export operations using the
planned liquefaction facilities no later than December 31, 2029.

This amended Ordering Paragraph D supersedes Ordering Paragraph D in Order
No. 4373 in its entirety.

E. All other obligations, rights, and responsibilities established by DOE/FE Order
No. 4373, as amended, remain in effect.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 16, 2025.



Chris Wright
U.S. Secretary of Energy