

**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Categorical Exclusion Determination**  
**Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office**



**ECA LIQUEFACTION, S. DE R.L. DE C.V.**  
**DOCKET NO. 18-144-LNG**

**PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION:** ECA Liquefaction, S. de R.L. de C.V. (ECA Liquefaction) filed a “Request for Extensions for Long-Term Authorizations to Export Liquefied Natural Gas” (Request) with the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (now known as the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office)<sup>1</sup> on September 19, 2025, pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)<sup>2</sup> and 10 CFR Part 590 of the Department of Energy’s (DOE) regulations.

In the Request, as relevant here, ECA Liquefaction seeks to amend its existing long-term authorization, set forth in DOE/FE Order No. 4364, as amended.<sup>3</sup> Under Order No. 4364, as amended, ECA Liquefaction is authorized to export domestically produced natural gas to Mexico and to re-export quantities of that natural gas not consumed in Mexico in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG). ECA Liquefaction is authorized to re-export the LNG by vessel in a volume equivalent to 161 billion cubic feet per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas from the ECA Mid-Scale Project, currently under construction in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, for a term ending on December 31, 2050. ECA Liquefaction is authorized to re-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).<sup>4</sup>

In the Request, ECA Liquefaction asks DOE to amend its non-FTA authorization to extend its current deadline to commence re-exports set forth in Order No. 4364, as amended, from March 29, 2026, to September 21, 2026.

Additionally, to align the authorization with DOE’s current practice, DOE is proposing to amend Order No. 4364, as amended, to allow three additional years for ECA Liquefaction to re-export the approved volume of LNG beyond the export term ending on December 31, 2050.<sup>5</sup> This three-year period, known as the Make-Up Period, would extend through December 31, 2053. ECA Liquefaction would not be permitted to exceed its approved non-FTA re-export volume over the three-year Make-Up Period, absent appropriate authorization by DOE.

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<sup>1</sup> The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) changed its name to the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) on July 4, 2021. Subsequently, on November 20, 2025, FECM changed its name to the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO). DOE uses the acronym in effect at the time of each order or action discussed herein.

<sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

<sup>3</sup> *ECA Liquefaction, S. de R.L. de C.V.*, DOE/FE Order No. 4364, Docket No. 18-144-LNG, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Re-Export U.S.-Sourced Natural Gas in the Form of Liquefied Natural Gas from Mexico to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries (Mar. 29, 2019), *amended by* DOE/FE Order No. 4364-A (Oct. 7, 2019) (transferring authorization), *further amended by* DOE/FE Order No. 4364-B (Dec. 10, 2020) (extending export term).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a). In DOE/FE Order No. 4317, as amended (Docket No. 18-144-LNG), DOE authorized ECA Liquefaction to export a volume of LNG equivalent to 182 Bcf/yr to FTA countries, on a non-additive basis. In the Request, ECA Liquefaction also seeks an amendment to Order No. 4317, as amended, which is not subject to this categorical exclusion determination.

<sup>5</sup> *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) (reinstating three-year Make-Up Period).

DOE's proposed action is to grant these amendments to Order No. 4364, as amended, if DOE determines that there is good cause to extend the export commencement deadline and that adding the Make-Up Period is necessary and appropriate. If granted, the amended authorization would extend ECA Liquefaction's current re-export commencement deadline under Order No. 4364, as amended, to September 21, 2026, and would include the Make-Up Period, subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the 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).<sup>6</sup>

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: 2026.03.19 13:03:01 -04'00'

Date Determined: **3/19/26**

**Brian Lavoie, NEPA Compliance Officer, Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office**

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<sup>6</sup> DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures can be viewed at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/doe-nepa-implementing-procedures-june-2025>.