



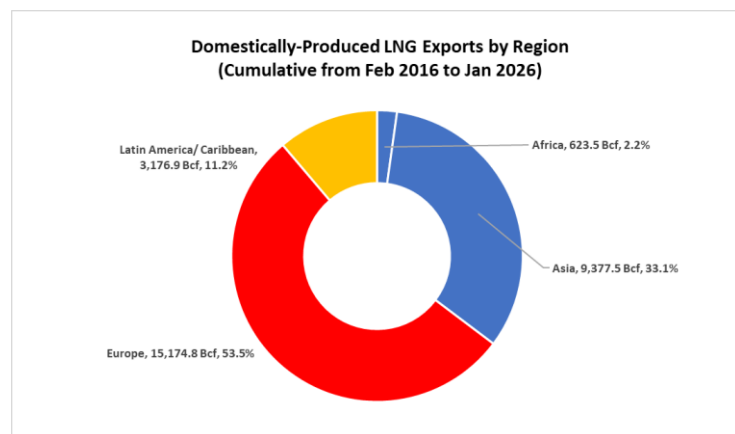
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Exports

March 2026

The United States produces more natural gas than it uses, and LNG export facilities are operating or being built to deliver gas overseas. Nine large-scale and three small-scale LNG facilities have begun export operation. DOE's Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO) monitors U.S. LNG trade through its regulatory role under the Natural Gas Act (NGA).

Overview

The United States has become the world's largest producer of natural gas, creating the opportunity for exports. Companies that want to export natural gas must get authorization from HGEO. The [Natural Gas Act](#)¹ requires HGEO to make public interest determinations on applications to export LNG to countries without free trade agreements with the U.S. (non-FTA countries).



HGEO also publishes information on LNG exports in its [Natural Gas Imports and Exports Monthly Report](#).² LNG exports from the Lower 48 started in 2016. As of January 2026, U.S. export terminals have sent cargos to 50 countries on five continents, mostly from large-scale facilities. Small shipments have been exported since 2016 in cryogenic ISO containers, to customers predominantly in Central America and the Caribbean.

LNG Export Application Process and Activity

There are two standards of review under the NGA, based on the intended destination of LNG. Where countries have a free trade agreement with the U.S. (FTA countries), exports are deemed consistent with the public interest. The NGA directs DOE to evaluate LNG export applications to non-FTA countries. DOE is required to grant requested export authority for non-FTA countries, unless it finds the proposed exports will be inconsistent with the public interest, or where trade is prohibited by law or policy (for example, Cuba, North Korea, and Iran). DOE acts on long-term applications to non-FTA countries after completing a public interest review that involves several criteria, such as the domestic need for the natural gas to be exported. DOE must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before issuing a final decision on an application for exports to non-FTA countries.

Obtaining a DOE authorization to export LNG to non-FTA countries is an important step for most projects in their path toward financing and construction. After comprehensive reviews, DOE has issued a total of 44 long-term LNG authorizations for any country in the world not prohibited by U.S. law or policy, in a cumulative amount of 56.3 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), as of March 31, 2026. DOE has also issued several authorizations under its Small Scale Rule, as summarized [here](#).³ Currently, U.S. export capacity is more than 19 Bcf/d, and over 36 Bcf/d of capacity is in various stages of operation and construction. Some of the companies that have LNG export authorizations from DOE have not reached final investment decisions (FID) on their projects. Construction of large facilities takes years to complete and can cost billions of dollars. A complete list of long-term LNG export applications and their current status can be found in DOE's [Summary of LNG Export Applications](#).⁴

LNG Facilities

Nine large-scale LNG facilities are using authorizations to export U.S.-sourced natural gas. Six other large-scale terminals with DOE authorization are under construction pursuant to FID. Terminals that have DOE authorizations report their status and construction progress to the Department twice per year, and these [Semi-Annual Reports](#)⁵ are available on DOE's website. Customers wishing to purchase LNG from the United States can contact one of the companies authorized or seeking export

¹ 15 U.S.C. § 717 et seq., <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-868/pdf/COMPS-868.pdf>.

² <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/listings/natural-gas-imports-and-exports-monthly-reports>.

³ <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/articles/lng-trades-markets>.

⁴ <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/articles/summary-lng-export-applications-lower-48-states>.

⁵ <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/semi-annual-reporting-requirements-lng-exporters-2010-2026-dockets>.

authority, as listed in the [Online Docket Room](#).⁶

NORTH AMERICAN LARGE-SCALE LNG EXPORT PROJECTS WITH NON-FTA EXPORT AUTHORITY FROM DOE						
	Project	Volume (Bcf/d)			Initial Operation (or est.)	Construction Status
		Authorized	Under Construction Pursuant to FID	Operating		
1	Sabine Pass <i>Cameron, LA</i>	4.55	0	4.55	Feb. 2016	Operating
2	Cove Point LNG <i>Calvert Cty, MD</i>	0.77	0	0.77	Mar. 2018	Operating
3	Cameron <i>Hackberry, LA</i>	3.53	0	2.12	May 2019	3 trains operating
4	Corpus Christi <i>Corpus Christi, TX</i>	4.46	1.15	3.31	Dec. 2018	3 trains + trains 1-4 of Stage 3 operating
5	Elba Island <i>Chatham County, GA</i>	0.36	0	0.36	Sep. 2019	Operating
6	Freeport <i>Quintana Island, TX</i>	3.10	0	2.38	Sep. 2019	3 trains operating
7	Golden Pass <i>Sabine Pass, TX</i>	2.57	2.57	0	2026 (est.)	Under construction
8	Venture Global Calcasieu Pass <i>Cameron, LA</i>	1.76	0	1.76	Mar. 2022	Operating
9	Lake Charles <i>Lake Charles, LA</i>	2.33	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
10	Delfin <i>Gulf</i>	1.80	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
11	Port Arthur <i>Port Arthur, TX</i>	3.82	3.82	0	2027 (est.)	Under construction
12	Louisiana LNG Infrastructure <i>Calcasieu Parish, LA</i>	3.88	2.33	0	2029 (est.)	Under construction
13	Gulf LNG <i>Jackson County, MS</i>	1.53	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
14	Venture Global Plaquemines <i>Plaquemines Parish, LA</i>	3.85	0	3.85	Dec. 2024	Operating
15	Rio Grande LNG <i>Brownsville, TX</i>	3.61	3.61	0	2027 (est.)	Under construction
16	Texas LNG <i>Brownsville, TX</i>	0.56	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
17	Alaska LNG <i>Kenai Peninsula, AK</i>	2.55	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
18	Commonwealth <i>Cameron Parish, LA</i>	1.21	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
19	Venture Global CP2 <i>Cameron Parish, LA</i>	3.96	3.96	0	2027 (est.)	Under construction
	U.S. TOTAL	50.20	17.44	19.10		
20	Mexico Pacific Limited <i>Sonora, Mexico</i>	1.7	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
21	Energia Costa Azul <i>Ensenada, Mexico</i>	2.18	0.44	0	2026 (est.)	Phase 1 Under construction Phase 2 FID Pending
22	Epsilon LNG <i>Sonora, Mexico</i>	1.08	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
23	Vista Pacifico LNG <i>Sinaloa, Mexico</i>	0.55	0	0	N/A	Pending FID
24	NFE Altamira FLNG <i>Tamaulipas, Mexico</i>	0.40	0	0.40	Aug. 2024	Operating
	NORTH AMERICA TOTAL	56.11¹	17.88	19.50		

¹ Approved amounts listed here do not include non-FTA authorizations issued to small-scale facilities, which brings the total to 56.26 Bcf/d. Additional small-scale authorizations issued specifically under DOE's Small-Scale Rule are not additive to the cumulative total.

For more information, please visit <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/regulation>

⁶ <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/articles/electronic-docket-room-e-docket-room>.