

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



VENTURE GLOBAL PLAQUEMINES LNG, LLC
DOCKET NO. 16-28-LNG

PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC (Plaquemines LNG) filed an Application for a limited amendment to its existing LNG export authorizations (Amendment Application) with the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) (now known as the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office)¹ on March 11, 2022. The Application was submitted pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)² and 10 CFR Part 590 of DOE’s regulations.

In the Amendment Application, in relevant part, Plaquemines LNG seeks to amend its existing long-term authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG), set forth in DOE/FE Order No. 4446, as amended.³ Under Order No. 4446, as amended, Plaquemines LNG is authorized to export LNG by vessel in a volume equivalent to 1,240 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas from the existing Plaquemines LNG Project (Project), located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, near mile marker 55, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. Plaquemines LNG is authorized to 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).⁴

In the Amendment Application, Plaquemines LNG seeks to increase the authorized LNG export volume under Order No. 4446 by the equivalent of 165.33 Bcf/yr of natural gas (approximately 0.45 Bcf per day). Plaquemines LNG states that this additional requested export volume results from advancement and refinement of the final design of the Project. The requested amendment would increase the volume of authorized LNG exports under Order No. 4446 to a total volume equivalent to 1,405.33 Bcf/yr of natural gas. Plaquemines LNG states that all other rights, obligations, and responsibilities of Order No. 4446, as amended, would remain the same.

DOE’s proposed action is to authorize the increased export volume described in the Amendment Application if DOE determines that such exports are not inconsistent with the public interest. If granted, the amendment authorization would permit the requested exports of domestically produced LNG by vessel from the Project to non-FTA countries, subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the DOE order.

¹ 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.

² 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

³ *Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4446, Docket No. 16-28-LNG, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (Oct. 16, 2019), *amended by* DOE/FE Order No. 4446-A (Oct. 21, 2020) (extending export term).

⁴ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a). In the Application, Plaquemines LNG also requests an increase of the same amount in its authorized LNG export volume to FTA countries under NGA section 3(c), *id.* § 717b(c), on a non-additive basis. On June 13, 2022, in Order No. 3866-B, DOE granted the requested amendment to Plaquemines LNG’s FTA authorization, which is not subject to this categorical exclusion determination.

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

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: 2026.03.13 09:14:39 -04'00'

Date Determined: 3/13/26

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

⁵ DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures can be viewed at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/doe-nepa-implementing-procedures-june-2025>.