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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
HYDROCARBONS AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY OFFICE**

_____)
Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC)

HGEO DOCKET NO. 12-101-LNG

**REQUEST OF GULF LNG LIQUEFACTION COMPANY, LLC
FOR EXTENSION OF COMMENCEMENT DEADLINE**

Pursuant to Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (“NGA”), 15 U.S.C. § 717b, and Part 590 of the regulations of the Department of Energy (“DOE”), 10 C.F.R. Part 590 (2025), Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC (“GLLC”) submits this request to the DOE Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (“DOE/HGEO”)¹ for an extension of the deadline to commence commercial export operations of liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) to non-Free Trade Agreement (“FTA”) countries issued in Order No. 4410 in HGEO Docket No. 12-101-LNG.² GLLC respectfully requests that the deadline to commence export operations under this authorization be extended until July 31, 2031.

I. Background

On August 31, 2012, GLLC filed for authorization pursuant to Section 3 of the NGA to export LNG to non-FTA countries. On July 31, 2019, GLLC received the requested authorization to export LNG to non-FTA countries for a period of 20 years³ beginning on the date of GLLC’s first commercial export of domestically produced LNG from the Gulf LNG Liquefaction Project.⁴

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). GLLC uses the acronym in effect at the time of each order or action discussed herein.

² *Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4410, FE Docket No. 12-101-LNG (July 31, 2019) (“Order No. 4410”).

³ On January 12, 2021, DOE/FE granted an extension of the export term through December 31, 2050. *Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC*, DOE/FE Order Nos. 3104-A, 4410-A, FE Docket Nos. 12-47-LNG, 12-101-LNG (January 12, 2021). GLLC has also received authorization to export LNG to FTA countries. *Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 3104, FE Docket No. 12-47-LNG (June 15, 2012).

⁴ Order No. 4410.

GLLC also filed with FERC on June 19, 2015, for authority under the Natural Gas Act to construct and operate natural gas liquefaction and export facilities at its existing LNG import terminal. On July 16, 2019, FERC granted GLLC the requested authority to construct and operate new LNG-export facilities, requiring that such facilities be constructed and made available for service within five years of the date of the order (*i.e.*, July 31, 2024).⁵ On May 23, 2024, FERC granted GLLC's request to extend this deadline until July 16, 2029.⁶

Ordering Paragraph (D) of Order No. 4410 requires that GLLC commence commercial LNG export operations no later than seven years from the date of the issuance of that order, *i.e.*, July 31, 2026. DOE/FE explained that “[t]he purpose of this condition is to ensure that other entities seeking 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.”⁷ Because GLLC has not commenced commercial LNG export operations to non-FTA countries, GLLC requests that its existing authorization be extended for another five years until July 31, 2031.

II. Communication

All correspondence and communications concerning this amendment application should be directed to the following persons:

⁵ *Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC et al*, 168 FERC ¶ 61,020 (2019).

⁶ *Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC et al*, 187 FERC ¶ 61,096 (2024) (“FERC Extension Order”).

⁷ Order No. 4410 at 61-62.

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III. Request for Extension of Time

Ordering Paragraph (D) of Order No. 4410 requires that GLLC commence commercial LNG export operations no later than seven years from the date of the issuance of the order, *i.e.*, July 31, 2026. GLLC hereby requests that the date be extended to July 31, 2031.

IV. Good Cause Exists to Grant this Extension Request

On April 2, 2025, the DOE announced⁸ that it was rescinding a 2023 policy in which the DOE would allow authorizations to expire on the export commencement deadline originally set forth in the order and would not consider applications for extension unless the authorization holder demonstrated that it had physically commenced construction on the associated export facility and that its inability to comply with the export commencement deadline was the result of extenuating circumstances outside of its control.⁹ The DOE concluded that the Policy Statement did not align with policies set forth in Executive Order 14154, directing agencies “to review and suspend, revise, or rescind actions that unduly burden the development of domestic energy resources, with particular attention to natural gas.”¹⁰ In the Rescission of Policy Statement, the DOE stated that it “will consider applications to extend an authorization holder’s export

⁸ Rescission of Policy Statement on Export Commencement Deadlines in Authorization to Export Natural Gas Export to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries, 90 Fed. Reg. 14,411 (Apr. 2, 2025) (“Rescission of Policy Statement”).

⁹ Policy Statement on Export Commencement Deadlines in Authorizations to Export Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries, 88 Fed. Reg. 25,272 (Apr. 26, 2023) (“Policy Statement”).

¹⁰ Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy, 90 Fed. Reg. 8353 (Jan. 29, 2025).

commencement deadline and grant such extensions for good cause shown on a case-by-case basis” and characterized this approach as “consistent with DOE’s practice prior to the issuance of the Policy Statement.”¹¹

Consistent with the DOE Rescission of Policy Statement, good cause exists to grant GLLC’s request to extend its export commencement deadline by five years, until July 31, 2031. In the period since the issuance of Order No. 4410, GLLC has been attempting to enter into commercial agreements for the export of LNG from the Gulf LNG Liquefaction Project and to proceed with the construction and operation of the terminal facilities as well as long-term export of LNG from those facilities in the manner authorized by the DOE/FE. As FERC found when extending the deadline for GLLC to construct the facility and place it into service,¹² GLLC has “made a good faith effort to meet the deadline in their authorization and ... good cause exists for an extension.”¹³ However, those good faith efforts have been frustrated by events outside of GLLC’s control. Specifically, within months after the issuance of Order No. 4410, the COVID-19 Pandemic commenced, significantly delaying both efforts to construct the export facilities to reach commercial agreements. GLLC’s affiliates at the terminal have also been involved in litigation with import customers which only recently resolved and which during its pendency caused uncertainty regarding the project, hampering GLLC’s ability to execute commercial liquefaction take-off contracts with potential customers.¹⁴ Presently, uncertainty regarding the export commencement deadline has similarly frustrated GLLC’s commercial efforts.

Notwithstanding these challenges, GLLC has been actively developing the project.¹⁵ GLLC has obtained almost all required federal, state and local authorizations and permits related to construction and operation of the project facilities, and has worked to maintain those permits. GLLC has also been working

¹¹ See Rescission of Policy Statement.

¹² DOE has previously found that FERC’s grant of an extension of the construction and in-service deadlines “supports [an applicant’s] request” to extend the DOE export commencement deadline. *Golden Pass LNG Terminal LLC*, DOE/FECM Order Nos. 3147-F, 3978-G at 17, FECM Docket Nos. 12-88-LNG, 12-156-LNG (March 5, 2025).

¹³ FERC Extension Order at P 8.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

with a development group, including with an EPC company, in preparation for the project's phases and to ensure that process structures and project resources are strategically in place to execute on front-end engineering design and post-FID activities.

In addition to the existence of good cause for the requested extension, an extension is in the public interest. As set forth in Executive Order 14154, granting applications to export LNG comes with “economic and employment impacts to the United States and the impact to the security of allies and partners,” and the same positive impacts will result from preventing GLLC’s authorization from lapsing. To the contrary, a failure to extend the deadline would “unduly burden the development of domestic energy resources,” specifically natural gas, inconsistent with the findings in the Rescission of Policy Statement. Further, while the DOE/FE initially imposed the export commencement deadline to ensure that other applicants seeking licenses were not frustrated in those efforts, GLLC is aware of no other entity whose efforts to acquire an export license are barred by GLLC’s possession of the instant authorization. Nor would there be incremental environmental impacts from an extension to the commencement deadline. There are no changes proposed to the scope or design that underlay GLLC’s initial application. As DOE found recently, “extending the deadline to commence non-FTA exports from [GLLC’s terminal] does not alter DOE’s public interest determination in granting” Order No. 4410.¹⁶ “In particular, [GLLC’s] non-FTA authorization is not affected by the requested extension beyond the additional time period for Delfin to commence export operations.”¹⁷

GLLC’s request for a five-year extension is consistent with a recent five-year extension provided to another LNG terminal,¹⁸ and provides GLLC with additional time after FERC’s current construction and in-service deadline of July 16, 2029 for GLLC to execute commercial contracts and begin exports. For the foregoing reasons, GLLC respectfully submits that good cause exists to extend its export commencement deadline until July 31, 2031, and that such an extension is consistent with the public interest.

¹⁶ *Delfin LNG LLC*, DOE/FECM Order Nos. 3393-C, 4028-D at 23, FECM Docket Nos. 13-129-LNG, 13-147-LNG (March 10, 2025)

¹⁷ *Id.* at 23.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 22.

V. Conclusion

GLLC submits that this request is consistent with the public interest and that good cause exists to grant this request. GLLC respectfully requests that the DOE/FE amends Ordering Paragraph (D) of Order No. 4410 and grant GLLC's request to extend the deadline by which GLLC must commence export operations by five years, until July 31, 2031. Pursuant to DOE regulations, GLLC is attaching a Verification,¹⁹ an opinion of counsel,²⁰ and Certificate of Service.²¹

Respectfully submitted,

Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC

/s/ Thomas Alexander Bridges

Tom Bridges

Assistant General Counsel

March 31, 2026

¹⁹ 10 CFR 590.103(b).

²⁰ 10 CFR 590.202(c).

²¹ 10 CFR 590.103(b).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served the foregoing document upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated in Birmingham, AL this 31st day of March, 2026.

/s/ Rhonda Creel

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APPENDIX A
VERIFICATION

APPENDIX B
OPINION OF COUNSEL

Opinion of Counsel

This opinion is submitted pursuant to the requirements of Section 590.202(c), 10 C.F.R. § 590.202(c) (2025), of the Department of Energy administrative procedures. The undersigned is Assistant General Counsel to Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC and an authorized representative of Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC.

I have reviewed the corporate documents of Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC, and it is my opinion that the proposed export of natural gas, as described in this application, is within the limited liability company powers of Gulf LNG Liquefaction Company, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thomas Alexander Bridges

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Dated: March 31, 2026