

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



SOUTHERN LNG COMPANY, L.L.C.
DOCKET NO. 23-109-LNG

PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Southern LNG Company, L.L.C. (SLNG) filed an application (Application) with the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (now known as the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office)¹ on September 25, 2023. Subsequently, on July 31, 2025, SLNG filed an amendment application (Amendment Application), as supplemented on September 11, 2025 (Supplement). The Application, Amendment Application, and Supplement were submitted pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)² and 10 CFR Part 590 of DOE’s regulations.

In the Application, as amended, SLNG seeks additional long-term, multi-contract authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) in a volume equivalent to 28.25 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas (approximately 0.08 Bcf per day). SLNG requests authorization to export the LNG by vessel from the existing Elba Island Terminal, located in Chatham County, Georgia, 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).³ SLNG states that the volume requested is related to modifications to existing facilities and construction of some additional facilities, which will increase its maximum liquefaction capacity.⁴ SLNG requests that the export term extend through December 31, 2050.

In the Application, as amended, SLNG also asks DOE to authorize transfers of LNG into approved International Organization for Standardization (ISO) containers, which are then loaded onto ocean-going vessels for export; and ship-to-ship transfers of U.S.-sourced LNG for use as a marine fuel when the receiving ship is located within the territorial seas of a foreign country (including in foreign ports), as determined by that country and recognized by the United States.

DOE’s proposed action is to approve the exports described in the Application, as amended, if DOE determines that such exports are not inconsistent with the public interest. If granted, the authorization would permit SLNG to export the domestically produced LNG to non-FTA countries in three ways: (i) by vessel, (ii) in approved ISO containers loaded onto vessels, and (iii) loaded into bunkering vessels for ship-to-ship transfers for use as a

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 *Id.* § 717b(a).

⁴ SLNG is already authorized to export the equivalent of 130 Bcf/yr of natural gas from the Elba Island Terminal to non-FTA countries. See *Southern LNG Co., L.L.C.*, DOE/FE Order No. 3956, Docket No. 12-100-LNG, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term, Multi-Contract Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas by Vessel from the Elba Island Terminal in Chatham County, Georgia to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (Dec. 16, 2016), *amended by* DOE/FE Order No. 3956-A (Dec. 30, 2020) (extending export term). The current request seeks to increase SLNG’s non-FTA export volume from 130 Bcf/yr to 158.25 Bcf/yr of natural gas in a new proceeding, not as an amendment to SLNG’s existing non-FTA authorization. In addition, SLNG is authorized to export up to the equivalent of 182.5 Bcf/yr to FTA countries under 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c), in DOE/FE Order No. 3106, as amended, Docket No. 12-54-LNG. This categorical exclusion determination pertains only to the additional 28.25 Bcf/yr to non-FTA countries for which SLNG seeks export authorization in the Application, as amended.

marine fuel when the receiving ship is located within the territorial sea of a foreign country (including in foreign ports), as determined by that country and recognized by the United States; subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the DOE 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).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: 2026.04.02 10:27:13 -04'00'

Date Determined: 4/2/26

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>.