

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



**FREERPORT LNG EXPANSION L.P. & FLNG LIQUEFACTION 4, LLC**  
**DOCKET NO. 18-26-LNG**

**PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION:** Freeport LNG Expansion L.P. and FLNG Liquefaction 4, LLC (collectively, FLEX4) filed a “Request for Extension of Non-Free Trade Agreement Export Commencement Deadline” (Request) with the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (now the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office)<sup>1</sup> on June 23, 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, FLEX4 seeks to amend its existing long-term authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG), set forth in DOE/FE Order No. 4374, as amended.<sup>3</sup> Under Order No. 4374, as amended, FLEX4 is authorized to export LNG by vessel in a volume equivalent to 262.8 billion cubic feet per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas from the proposed Train 4 Project, to be located at the Freeport LNG Terminal on Quintana Island near Freeport, Texas, for a term ending on December 31, 2050. FLEX4 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).<sup>4</sup>

In the Request, FLEX4 asks DOE to amend Order No. 4374, as amended, to extend its current deadline to commence exports from May 28, 2026, to December 1, 2031.

Additionally, to align the authorization with DOE’s current practice, DOE is proposing to further amend Order No. 4374 to allow three additional years for FLEX4 to 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. FLEX4 would not be permitted to exceed its approved non-FTA export volume of 262.8 Bcf/yr over the three-year Make-Up Period, absent appropriate authorization by DOE.

DOE’s proposed action is to grant these amendments to Order No. 4374 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 FLEX4’s current export commencement deadline under Order No. 4374, as amended, to December 1, 2031, and would include the Make-Up Period, subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the Order.

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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> *Freeport LNG Expansion, L.P. and FLNG Liquefaction 4, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4374, Docket No. 18-26-LNG, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (May 28, 2019), *amended by* DOE/FE Order No. 4374-A (Oct. 21, 2020) (extending export term).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a).

<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).

**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: 2026.05.26 09:42:33 -04'00'

Date Determined: 5/26/26

**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>.