

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



COVE POINT LNG, LP
DOCKET NO. 26-30-LNG

PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Cove Point LNG, LP (Cove Point) filed an application (Application) with the Department of Energy's (DOE) Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office on March 16, 2026, seeking blanket authorization to engage in short-term exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) previously imported into the United States from foreign sources. Cove Point requests authorization to export this LNG in a volume equivalent to 70 billion cubic feet of natural gas on a cumulative basis for a two-year period commencing on July 8, 2026. The Application was submitted pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)¹ and 10 CFR Part 590 of DOE's regulations.

As relevant here, Cove Point seeks to export the previously imported LNG by vessel from the existing Cove Point Terminal in Calvert County, Maryland, 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).²

DOE's proposed action is to authorize the exports described in the Application if DOE determines that such exports are not inconsistent with the public interest. If granted, the authorization would permit the requested exports of previously imported LNG by vessel on a short-term basis from the Cove Point Terminal, 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 16, 2026).³

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.

¹ 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

² *Id.* § 717b(a). In the Application, Cove Point also requests authorization to export LNG in the same volume to FTA countries under NGA section 3(c), *id.* § 717b(c), on a non-additive basis. The FTA portion of the Application is not subject to this categorical exclusion determination.

³ DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures can be viewed at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-nepa-implementing-procedures>.

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 regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

BRIAN
Signature: LAVOIE

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Date: 2026.06.25 17:02:33
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Date Determined: 6/25/26

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