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

In The Matter Of:

Rio Grande LNG Train 6, LLC

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Docket No. 26-___-LNG

**APPLICATION FOR LONG-TERM AUTHORIZATION TO EXPORT LIQUEFIED
NATURAL GAS TO FREE TRADE AGREEMENT COUNTRIES AND
NON-FREE TRADE AGREEMENT COUNTRIES**

Vera de Gyarfas
Paul Nielson
NextDecade Corporation
1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 3300
Houston, TX 77002
Telephone: (832) 900-4274
Email: vdegyarfas@next-decade.com
Email: pnielson@next-decade.com

Lisa M. Tonery
Mariah T. Johnston
Jacob I. Cunningham
Anna K. Simon
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
51 West 52nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10019-6142
Telephone: (212) 506-3710
Email: ltinery@orrick.com
Email: mjohnston@orrick.com
Email: jacob.cunningham@orrick.com
Email: annakaterina.simon@orrick.com

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Rio Grande LNG Train 6, LLC (“RGLNG Train 6”) hereby respectfully requests, under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (“NGA”)¹ and Part 590 of the U.S. Department of Energy’s (“DOE”) regulations,² that DOE’s Hydrocarbons And Geothermal Energy Office grant long-term, multi-contract authorization³ to engage in exports of domestically produced liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) in an amount up to the equivalent of approximately 312.05 billion cubic feet (“Bcf”) of natural gas per year (“Bcf/y”).⁴ Such exports are proposed from an expansion (the “Rio Grande LNG Expansion Project” or “Project”) of the previously authorized Rio Grande LNG terminal, located along the Brownsville Ship Channel (“BSC”) in Cameron County, Texas (“Authorized RGLNG Terminal”).⁵ The Rio Grande LNG Expansion Project is proposed at and adjacent to the Authorized RGLNG Terminal.

¹ 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

² 10 C.F.R. Part 590 (2025).

³ Pursuant to DOE’s established practice, RGLNG Train 6 requests the long-term authorization to export domestically produced natural gas requested herein include additional authority to export the same approved volume pursuant to transactions with terms of less than two years on a non-additive basis (including non-additive commissioning volumes). *Including Short-Term Export Authority in Long-Term Authorizations for the Export of Natural Gas on a Non-Additive Basis*, 86 Fed. Reg. 2,243 (Jan. 12, 2021) (hereinafter, “Short-Term Policy Statement”).

⁴ Equivalent to approximately 6.03 million tonnes per annum of LNG.

⁵ The Authorized RGLNG Terminal is being sited, constructed, and will be operated by Rio Grande LNG, LLC (“RGLNG”), Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC (“RGLNG Train 4”) and Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC (“RGLNG Train 5”) (collectively, the “RGLNG Entities”), affiliates of RGLNG Train 6. *Rio Grande LNG, LLC & Rio Bravo*

Specifically, RGLNG Train 6 requests authorization to export LNG to any country which has, or in the future develops, the capacity to import LNG via ocean going carrier and with which the United States either (i) has a free trade agreement (“FTA”) requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas (“FTA Countries”) or (ii) lacks an FTA requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas but with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy (“Non-FTA Countries”), on a non-additive basis. RGLNG Train 6 further requests that the term for each authorization commence at first commercial export and extend until the later of December 31, 2050, or twenty years following the date of first commercial export. Finally, consistent with recent precedent, RGLNG Train 6 requests authorization to continue exports during a make-up period of up to 3 years (the “Make-up Period”). During the Make-Up Period, RGLNG Train 6 requests authorization to export any of a volume of LNG equivalent to a minimum of 20 years of exports at the annual volume of LNG approved for exports, which it is unable to export during the term of the export authorization, provided that the volume exported per year of the Make-Up Period will not exceed such authorized annual volume.⁶

RGLNG Train 6 requests this authorization on behalf of itself and as agent for other entities that may hold title to the LNG at the time of export from the Rio Grande LNG Expansion Project. Finally, RGLNG Train 6 respectfully requests that DOE issue the authorizations requested herein

Pipeline Company, LLC, 169 FERC ¶ 61,131 (2019), *modified*, *Rio Grande LNG, LLC & Rio Bravo Pipeline Company, LLC*, 183 FERC ¶ 61,046 (2023), *further modified*, *Rio Grande LNG, LLC, Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC & Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC*, 187 FERC ¶ 61,097 (2024), *further modified*, *Rio Grande LNG, LLC, Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC, Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC & Rio Bravo Pipeline Company, LLC*, 192 FERC ¶ 61,198 (2025). The Authorized RGLNG Terminal and the Project will be operated on an integrated basis.

⁶ *See, e.g., Port Arthur LNG Phase II, LLC*, Order Amending Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, DOE/FECM Order No. 5292-A, Docket No. 20-23-LNG (June 30, 2025) (hereinafter, “Order No. 5292-A”) (noting that allowing a three-year make-up period is consistent with the public interest, U.S. policy, and DOE’s past practice).

without undue delay for the authorization to export to FTA Countries and by no later than March 2027 for the authorization to export to Non-FTA Countries.

In support of the instant application (“Application”), RGLNG Train 6 provides as follows:

**I.
DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT**

The exact legal name of RGLNG Train 6 is Rio Grande LNG Train 6, LLC. RGLNG Train 6 is a Delaware limited liability company. RGLNG Train 6 has a primary place of business located at 1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 3300, Houston, TX 77002, and is registered to do business in the State of Texas.

**II.
CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

All correspondence and communications concerning this Application, including all service of pleadings and notices, should be directed to the following persons:⁷

Vera de Gyarfas
Paul Nielson
NextDecade Corporation
1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 3300
Houston, TX 77002
Telephone: (832) 900-4274
Email: ydegyarfas@next-decade.com
Email: pnielson@next-decade.com

Lisa M. Tonery
Mariah T. Johnston
Jacob I. Cunningham
Anna K. Simon
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
51 West 52nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10019-6142
Telephone: (212) 506-3710
Email: ltoney@orrick.com
Email: mjohnston@orrick.com
Email: jacob.cunningham@orrick.com
Email: annakaterina.simon@orrick.com

⁷ RGLNG Train 6 requests waiver of Section 590.202(a) of DOE’s regulations, to the extent necessary to include additional representatives on the official service list in this proceeding. 10 C.F.R. § 590.202(a). Pursuant to Section 590.103(b) of DOE’s regulations, RGLNG Train 6 hereby certifies that the persons listed in this section and the undersigned are the duly authorized representatives of RGLNG Train 6. 10 C.F.R. § 590.103(b).

III. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Rio Grande LNG Expansion Project is to expand the LNG production and ship loading capacity of the Authorized RGLNG Terminal to meet consistent and growing global demand for affordable, cleaner-burning American natural gas. Utilizing the previously Authorized RGLNG Terminal site and certain infrastructure currently under construction will allow expansion of the Authorized RGLNG Terminal with minimal environmental impacts, while increasing deliveries of natural gas to U.S. allies. Additionally, the Project and the exports proposed in the instant Application will help support and stabilize the domestic energy market, while providing foreign allies and trading partners with a cleaner, more cost-effective and reliable energy supply alternative, facilitating energy security for U.S. allies who are diversifying away from unstable energy suppliers, and improving the U.S. balance of trade. Finally, the Project will result in significant employment and economic benefits for the local, state and national economies, while meeting global demand for natural gas and helping the U.S. meet its economic and security commitments to its allies and trading partners.

Therefore, as detailed below, authorization to export LNG from the Project is not inconsistent with the public interest, rather, approving such exports will serve the public interest. Accordingly, RGLNG Train 6 respectfully requests that DOE approve the Application and issue the requested authorization to export to FTA Countries without undue delay and the authorization to export to Non-FTA Countries by no later than March 2027.

IV. AUTHORIZED RGLNG TERMINAL EXPORTS

DOE has previously authorized exports by the RGLNG Entities to FTA and Non-FTA Countries from the Authorized RGLNG Terminal. On August 17, 2016, DOE issued Order No. 3869, granting RGLNG authorization to export up to 1,318 Bcf/y of LNG from the Authorized

RGLNG Terminal to FTA Countries for a 30-year term,⁸ and on February 10, 2020, DOE issued Order No. 4492, granting RGLNG authorization to export up to 1,318 Bcf/y of LNG to Non-FTA Countries for a term of 20 years (on a non-additive basis).⁹ On October 21, 2020, DOE issued Order No. 4492-A, which amended Order No. 4492 and extended the term of RGLNG's authorization to export LNG to Non-FTA Countries through the year 2050.¹⁰ On August 20, 2025, DOE issued an order adding RGLNG Train 4 and RGLNG Train 5 as additional holders of the authorizations to export LNG from the Authorized RGLNG Terminal.¹¹

Additionally, on December 17, 2025, the RGLNG Entities filed an application requesting authorization to export additional LNG from the Authorized RGLNG Terminal to FTA and Non-FTA Countries, in an amount of up to the equivalent of approximately 242.26 Bcf/y of natural gas.¹² The application is currently pending before DOE.

V. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On May 26, 2026, RGLNG Train 6 filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission” or “FERC”) in Docket No. CP26-532-000 for authorization to site,

⁸ *Rio Grande LNG, LLC*, Order Granting Long-Term, Multi-Contract Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas by Vessel From the Proposed Rio Grande LNG Terminal in Brownsville, Texas, to Free Trade Agreement Nations, DOE/FE Order No. 3869, FE Docket No. 15-190-LNG (Aug. 17, 2016).

⁹ *Rio Grande LNG, LLC*, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, DOE/FE Order No. 4492, FE Docket No. 15-190-LNG (Feb. 10, 2020).

¹⁰ *Rio Grande LNG, LLC*, Order Extending Export Term for Authorization to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations Through December 31, 2050, DOE/FE Order No. 4492-A, FE Docket No. 15-190-LNG (Oct. 21, 2020).

¹¹ *Rio Grande LNG, LLC, Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC & Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC*, Order Granting Request to Amend Authorizations to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Add Authorization Holders, DOE/FECM Order Nos. 3869-A & 4492-B, FE Docket No. 15-190-LNG (Aug. 20, 2025).

¹² *Rio Grande LNG, LLC, Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC & Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC*, Application for Amendment to Authorizations to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Free Trade and Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries, FE Docket No. 15-190-LNG (Dec. 17, 2025).

construct and operate the Rio Grande LNG Expansion Project (“FERC Application”).¹³ Specifically, the Project will consist of a sixth liquefaction train, one new marine jetty, and associated facilities, to be located at and adjacent to the Authorized RGLNG Terminal. The Project site has been secured by Rio Grande LNG LandCo, LLC, an affiliate of RGLNG Train 6, through a lease with the Brownsville Navigation District for a term of up to 50 years.¹⁴

RGLNG Train 6 requested that the Commission grant all authorizations required to site, construct, and operate the Project by no later than March 2027. Approval from FERC by March 2027 and DOE immediately thereafter, is critical to enable NextDecade Corporation, the parent company of RGLNG Train 6, to reach a positive final investment decision for the Project and provide full notice to proceed to its engineering, procurement and construction contractor so that RGLNG Train 6 may commence construction of the Project by July 2027, and commence Project commissioning and start up for exports by January 2030.

VI. AUTHORIZATION REQUESTED

Pursuant to Section 3 of the NGA, RGLNG Train 6 hereby respectfully requests authorization to engage in exports from the Project of domestically produced LNG in an amount up to the equivalent of approximately 312.05 Bcf/y, via ocean going carrier to FTA Countries and Non-FTA Countries,¹⁵ each commencing at first commercial export for a term extending through the later of December 31, 2050, or twenty years from the date of first commercial export. RGLNG

¹³ *Rio Grande LNG Train 6, LLC*, Application for Authorization Under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act and Request for Expedited Review, Docket No. CP26-532-000 (May 26, 2026).

¹⁴ A copy of the Project site lease is included in Appendix C hereto. The Project site lease contains significant, sensitive privileged and confidential information that is both commercial and financial, the release of which would cause competitive and financial harm to RGLNG Train 6 and Rio Grande LNG LandCo, LLC by providing such proprietary, commercially valuable information to competitors and future counterparties. Therefore, Appendix C is being provided to DOE under seal, via overnight mail.

¹⁵ Exports to FTA Countries and Non-FTA Countries shall be on a non-additive basis.

Train 6 further requests authorization to continue exports during a Make-Up Period. During the Make-Up Period, RGLNG Train 6 requests authorization to export any of a volume of LNG equivalent to a minimum of 20 years of exports at the annual volume of LNG approved for export, which it is unable to export during the term of the export authorization, provided that the volume exported per year of the Make-Up Period will not exceed such authorized annual volume.¹⁶

RGLNG Train 6 requests authorization to engage in such exports both on its own behalf, and as agent for other parties who may hold title to the LNG at the time of export. RGLNG Train 6 will comply with all DOE requirements for exporters and agents, including the registration requirements as first established in DOE/FE Order No. 2913.¹⁷

Finally, consistent with the Short-Term Policy Statement, RGLNG Train 6 requests that the authorizations issued include authority for RGLNG Train 6 to export the same approved volume pursuant to transactions with terms of less than two years on a non-additive basis (including commissioning volumes).

VII. COMMERCIAL TERMS AND EXPORT SOURCES

Feed gas for the Project will be supplied from a Whistler pipeline extension, Bay Runner Pipeline Project, a non-jurisdictional intrastate pipeline. The Bay Runner Pipeline Project originates near Agua Dulce in Nueces County, Texas and terminates at the Authorized RGLNG Terminal in Cameron County, Texas. Specifically, the Project will receive gas from the second of

¹⁶ *Order No. 5292-A*, at 4 (reinstating a three-year make-up period “to allow time for both construction of the associated LNG export facility and the completion of a standard 20-year term for a natural gas supply contract and/or a LNG export contract.”).

¹⁷ *Freeport LNG Expansion, L.P. & FLNG Liquefaction, LLC*, Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas from Freeport LNG Terminal to Free Trade Nations, DOE/FE Order No. 2913, FE Docket No. 10-160-LNG, at 9-10 (Feb. 10, 2011).

the two lines being constructed for the Bay Runner Pipeline Project.¹⁸ The specific source of feed gas that will be transported on the Bay Runner Pipeline Project for delivery to the Project is not known at this time and may change over the life of the Project.

No long-term agreements associated with the Project have been signed to date. To the extent such long-term agreements are signed, RGLNG Train 6 will submit transaction-specific information (e.g., long-term supply agreements and long-term export agreements) at that time, and request that DOE make a similar finding to that in Order No. 5391 with regard to the transaction-specific information requested in Section 590.202(b) of DOE’s regulations.¹⁹

RGLNG Train 6 will file—or cause to be filed—either unredacted contracts, or long-term contracts under seal, with either: (i) a copy of each long-term contract with commercially sensitive information redacted, or (ii) a summary of all major provisions of the contracts including, but not limited to, the parties to each contract, contract term, quantity, any take-or-pay or equivalent provisions/conditions, destinations, re-sale provisions, and other relevant provisions.

VIII. LEGAL STANDARD UNDER NGA SECTION 3

There is a statutory presumption that exports are consistent with the public interest. RGLNG Train 6’s request for authorization to engage in exports to FTA Countries must be reviewed by DOE under Section 3(c) of the NGA, which states in relevant part that:

... the exportation of natural gas to a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas[] shall be deemed to be consistent with the public

¹⁸ See *FERC Application*, at Exh. F, Resource Report 1, Section 1.8 (Non-Jurisdictional Facilities) for additional detail.

¹⁹ 10 C.F.R. § 590.202(b); see also *Corpus Christi Liquefaction, LLC, CCL Midscale 8-9, LLC & Cheniere Marketing, LLC*, Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, DOE/HGEO Order No. 5391, Docket No. 23-46-LNG, at 60-61 (Feb. 26, 2026) (hereinafter, “Order No. 5391”).

interest, and applications for such ... exportation shall be granted without modification or delay.²⁰

Consistent with the foregoing, RGLNG Train 6 respectfully requests that DOE issue an order authorizing exports to FTA Countries as requested herein “without modification or delay.”²¹

With respect to RGLNG Train 6’s request to engage in exports to Non-FTA Countries, DOE must review such request under Section 3(a) of the NGA, which states in relevant part that:

... no person shall export any natural gas from the United States to a foreign country or import any natural gas from a foreign country without first having secured an order of the Commission authorizing it to do so. The Commission *shall issue* such order upon application, unless, after opportunity for hearing, it finds that the proposed exportation or importation will not be consistent with the public interest.²²

In accordance with Section 3(a) of the NGA, DOE must issue an order granting the requested export authorization, absent a finding that the proposed exports “will not be consistent with the public interest.”²³ In this regard, courts have consistently held that Section 3(a) of the NGA creates a presumption in favor of approval of an application for authorization to export LNG to non-FTA Countries, and project opponents bear the burden of overcoming the presumption.²⁴ In light of the significant precedent approving exports from U.S. LNG terminal facilities, including from the Authorized RGLNG Terminal, as well as the substantial evidence in the public record, as discussed

²⁰ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c).

²¹ *See id.*

²² 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a) (emphasis added).

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *See, e.g., Sierra Club v. DOE*, 134 F.4th 568, 572-73 (D.C. Cir. 2025) (noting Congress framed the “public interest” standard in Section 3(a) “in terms of a presumption favoring export applications”); *Sierra Club v. DOE*, 867 F.3d 189, 203 (D.C. Cir. 2017) (construing Section 3(a) as containing a general presumption favoring export authorization, and requiring an affirmative showing of inconsistency with the public interest for denial of an application).

below, DOE should find that the requested exports of LNG from the Project are not inconsistent with the public interest.

IX. PUBLIC INTEREST

As noted above, Section 3(a) of the NGA provides that, DOE “shall issue” an order authorizing exports to Non-FTA Countries “unless ... it finds that the proposed exportation ... will not be consistent with the public interest.”²⁵ Although “public interest” is not defined in the NGA or DOE’s regulations, nor are specific criteria identified that must be considered, DOE has consistently referred to the principles and factors established in its 1984 Policy Guidelines.²⁶ The goals of the 1984 Policy Guidelines are to “minimize federal control and involvement in energy markets and to promote a balanced and mixed energy resource system.”²⁷

Consistent with the 1984 Policy Guidelines, one of the primary factors DOE considers when making its public interest determination is the domestic need for natural gas,²⁸ however, DOE considers multiple factors when considering whether proposed exports are consistent with

²⁵ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a).

²⁶ U.S. Dep’t of Energy, New Policy Guidelines and Delegation Orders From Secretary of Energy to Economic Regulatory Administration and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Relating to the Regulation of Imported Natural Gas, 49 Fed. Reg. 6,684 (Feb. 22, 1984) (hereinafter, the “1984 Policy Guidelines”); *see also Southern LNG Company, L.L.C.*, Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, DOE/HGEO Order No. 5404, Docket No. 23-109-LNG, at 22 (Apr. 2, 2026) (hereinafter, “Order No. 5404”).

²⁷ *See, e.g., Order No. 5404*, at 22; *see also 1984 Policy Guidelines*, 49 Fed. Reg. at 6,685 (stating that “[t]he market, not government, should determine the price and other contract terms of imported [or exported] natural gas,” and emphasizing the importance of “minimizing regulatory impediments to a freely operating market”).

²⁸ *See* DOE Delegation Order No. 0204-111 (Feb. 22, 1984). Although DOE Delegation Order No. 0204-111 was later rescinded by DOE Delegation Order No. 00-002.00 (¶ 2) (Dec. 6, 2001), and DOE Redelegation Order No. 00-002.04 (¶ 2) (Jan. 8, 2002) and is no longer in effect, DOE nevertheless continues to focus on the domestic need for natural gas as a key factor in its evaluation of applications for export authorization. *See Order No. 5404*, at 22 (“DOE applies the principles described in DOE’s 1984 Policy Guidelines and ‘such other matters as [DOE] finds in the circumstances of a particular case to be appropriate,’ including the domestic need for the natural gas to be exported.”)

the public interest. DOE’s recent review of applications for authorization to export LNG to Non-FTA Countries has focused on:

- (i) the domestic need for the LNG proposed to be exported, (ii) whether the proposed exports pose a threat to the security of domestic natural gas supplies, (iii) whether the arrangement is consistent with DOE’s policy of promoting market competition, and (iv) any other factors bearing on the public interest as determined by DOE.²⁹

Historically, to further support these considerations, DOE has undertaken analysis of the impacts of exports in detailed formal studies, the most recent of which was the 2024 LNG Export Study.³⁰

In summarizing the information from the 2024 LNG Export Study, comments received in response to the study and materials submitted therewith, DOE highlighted nine “Key Findings”:

1. U.S domestic natural gas supply is sufficient to meet domestic and market-based global demand for U.S. natural gas (including LNG).
2. Increasing U.S. LNG exports increases U.S. [gross domestic product (“GDP”)].
3. Higher levels of U.S. LNG exports will have a beneficial impact on the U.S. trade balance.
4. Increased LNG exports are projected to have relatively modest impacts on prices and there has not been a consistent effect of U.S. LNG exports on prices to date. The potential price impacts from increased LNG exports modeled in the 2024 [LNG Export] Study are within the range of prices observed over the past five years, and those price impacts are below the price increases from U.S. LNG exports modeled in DOE’s 2018 LNG Export Study.
5. Increased U.S. LNG exports would enhance national and energy security for the United States, as well as U.S. allies and trading partners.
6. If U.S. LNG exports more than triple from current levels and reach the model-resolved level of exports, 56.3 Bcf/d, the cumulative increase in global [greenhouse gas (“GHG”)] emissions to 2050

²⁹ Order No. 5404, at 23.

³⁰ U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management, *Energy, Economic, & Environmental Assessment of U.S. LNG Exports* (Dec. 2024) (hereinafter, the “2024 LNG Export Study”).

would be no greater than 0.1%. Given the uncertainties inherent in modeling the global energy system, DOE cannot conclude that the change in GHG emissions would be significantly different from zero.

7. Increased U.S. exports of LNG are more likely to displace other sources of natural gas, along with coal and oil, than to replace renewable energy.
8. Natural gas production and the development of natural gas export infrastructure provide economic support to the communities in which they occur, including increased levels of employment.
9. Natural gas production, processing, and transportation have environmental effects. Federal, state, and local regulatory requirements that are outside DOE's authority over LNG exports include measures to reduce or mitigate any potential related impacts.³¹

These findings should inform DOE's public interest analysis and underpin a determination that additional exports to Non-FTA Countries, as proposed herein, are not inconsistent with the public interest. Additionally, the President has directed DOE, in evaluating the public interest of LNG exports, to "consider the economic and employment impacts to the United States and the impact to the security of allies and partners that would result from granting the application."³² As explained below, authorizing exports of LNG from the Project is consistent with the 1984 Policy Guidelines, DOE precedent, executive branch policies, and the Key Findings of the 2024 LNG Export Study.

Global Energy and National Security

The proposed exports from the Project are urgently needed to bolster energy security and help U.S. allies and trading partners mitigate the significant supply disruptions in the global LNG

³¹ U.S. Dep't of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management, *Energy, Economic, and Environmental Assessment of U.S. LNG Exports: Response to Comments*, at 46-49 (May 19, 2025) (hereinafter, "Response to Comments").

³² Exec. Order No. 14,154, *Unleashing American Energy*, 90 Fed. Reg. 8,353 (Jan. 29, 2025).

market caused by recent conflict in the Middle East, which has resulted in both short- and long-term natural gas supply issues.³³ In this regard, the March 2026 airstrikes by Iran on the world's largest LNG export facility (Ras Laffan) caused the facility to declare force majeure on LNG supply contracts, and “knock[ed] out some 17% of its capacity for up to five years, and delayed the [facility's] massive expansion plans.”³⁴ Moreover, the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz has severely limited the ability of LNG carriers to safely transport cargoes out of the region, even from operational facilities.³⁵ On April 20, 2026, President Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum pursuant to Section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, in which the President determined “that ensuring sufficient natural gas and [LNG] capacity is critical to sustaining United States defense operations and ensuring allied energy security” and that “[i]nadequate ... LNG export capacity would leave the United States and its partners dangerously exposed in times of crisis.”³⁶ Thus, authorizing the proposed exports of LNG in the instant Application is consistent with the public interest under the NGA, and, consistent with

³³ See, e.g., Giulia Petroni, *Middle East LNG Exports Forecast to Fall Sharply as Conflict Disrupts*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Mar. 4, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/finance/commodities-futures/middle-east-lng-exports-forecast-to-fall-sharply-as-conflict-disrupts-8f77435b> (“Qatar, the world’s second-largest LNG exporter, earlier this week halted production of LNG and other products at the Ras Laffan complex following an Iranian strike, triggering widespread fears of a global supply crunch and sending natural-gas prices soaring.”).

³⁴ Georgi Kantchev, *The World’s Energy Safety Net is Buckling*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Mar. 25, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/finance/commodities-futures/the-worlds-energy-safety-net-is-buckling-32812bc9>.

³⁵ See Rebecca Feng, *Tanker Loaded with Qatari LNG U-Turns After Attempting to Cross Strait of Hormuz*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (May 11, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/iran-trump-war-news/card/tanker-loaded-with-qatari-lng-u-turns-after-attempting-to-cross-strait-of-hormuz-UKWR5pRTzuX8FwY5if1A>; see also Mariah Timms, *No LNG Ships Passed Through Hormuz in March, Trackers Say*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Apr. 1, 2026) (“Iran’s stranglehold on the strait has choked the world’s energy supply since the start of the war on Feb. 28.”); Chelsey Dulaney, *Iran Expands Strait Definition*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (May 12, 2026) (“Iran said it has significantly expanded its definition of the Strait of Hormuz, signaling its intent to widen its grip on the crucial waterway that was effectively closed to global shipping by Iranian attacks at the start of the conflict.”).

³⁶ Presidential Determination No. 2026-12 of April 20, 2026, Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as Amended, on Natural Gas Transmission, Processing, Storage, and Liquefied Natural Gas Capacity, 91 Fed. Reg. 21,935 (Apr. 23, 2026).

Key Finding No. 5, will directly “enhance national and energy security for the United States, as well as U.S. allies and trading partners” who are in dire need of U.S. LNG.³⁷

Although proposed commissioning of the Project is not anticipated to commence until 2030, numerous analysts have noted that even if the current conflict were to abate suddenly, “the consequences for the LNG market will be long-lasting....”³⁸ As noted above, the return to service of the Ras Laffan terminal may not occur until after the proposed Project commences exporting LNG. Moreover, DOE previously considered Middle East volatility in the 2024 LNG Export Study and noted that Qatari LNG exporters have long faced “security concerns for commercial shipping around the Arabian Peninsula’s maritime chokepoints.”³⁹

Additionally, given the recent rise in global conflicts that have resulted in the disruption of global natural gas supply sources, such as the 2022 Russia and Ukraine war which resulted in Europe largely cutting off Russian natural gas, ensuring abundant, long-term availability of U.S. LNG in the global market is paramount for U.S. national security and the energy security of U.S.

³⁷ See Georgi Kantchev, *The Iran War Is Hitting Every Node in the LNG Supply Chain*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Mar. 26, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/stock-market-today-dow-sp-500-nasdaq-03-26-2026/card/the-iran-war-is-hitting-every-node-in-the-lng-supply-chain-f2POtINUGpNhMfKEHD3M> (“With Qatari and U.A.E. exports choked off, Europe and Asia must aggressively compete for spare capacity from the U.S. and Australia.”); see also Georgi Kantchev, *Iranian Attack on World’s Largest LNG Plant Triggers Spike in Prices*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Mar. 19, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/iran-us-israel-war-news-2026/card/iranian-attack-on-world-s-largest-lng-plant-triggers-spike-in-prices-tZ2GIUCIv7Y0oEbDlcEl> (“European gas prices surged by more than 25% on Thursday after Iranian strikes caused extensive damage to Qatar’s Ras Laffan....”); see also Rebecca Feng, *Qatar Energy Halts LNG Production, Sending Prices Soaring*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Mar. 2, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/stock-market-today-oil-prices-iran-attack-03-02-2026/card/qatarenergy-halts-lng-production-sending-prices-soaring-GHQIFuSJh2uD8GljRSvp> (“European natural-gas prices soared nearly 50% after the world’s largest [LNG] producer said it would halt output following an attack on its operations.”).

³⁸ See, e.g., Georgi Kantchev, *The World’s Energy Safety Net is Buckling*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Mar. 25, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/finance/commodities-futures/the-worlds-energy-safety-net-is-buckling-32812bc9>.

³⁹ *2024 LNG Export Study*, at S-43 – S-44 (“In the Red Sea, tensions escalated since October 2023 as Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi group attacked shipping lanes and held up at least four Qatari LNG tankers en route to Europe through the Suez Canal.... LNG shipments from Qatar and other exporters face the potential threat of Iran closing or blockading the Strait of Hormuz amid rising tensions with Israel. ***This chokepoint accounts for about one-fifth of the world’s LNG flows and could effectively cut off all Qatari and other Gulf nation cargoes, which would create extreme market volatility and supply disruptions around the world.***”) (emphasis added) (internal citations omitted).

allies and trading partners. As the International Energy Agency (“IEA”) recently confirmed, “[t]he disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz since the start of March has created unprecedented uncertainty, removing close to 20% of global LNG supply from the market and triggering sharp price increases across key importing regions.”⁴⁰ The IEA further noted that this “crisis has reversed a trend of market rebalancing observed during the 2025/26 heating season, when *strong growth in LNG supply – supported by new liquefaction capacity, particularly in North America – helped ease prices.*”⁴¹ In this regard, and to help alleviate these negative global market impacts, RGLNG Train 6, its affiliates and other U.S. LNG producers are working to supply the market with this necessary incremental LNG, as quickly and safely as possible to ensure the energy security of the U.S. and our allies. However, the recent global energy crisis is not just spurring action in the United States. Global competitors, such as Argentina’s YPF, Italy’s Eni and Spain’s Repsol, recently have indicated an intent to expedite development of LNG export facilities in an effort to address the supply shortage in international markets,⁴² and Canada recently “unveiled a deal to sell [LNG] to Germany” from Western LNG’s “proposed floating LNG export terminal” as a result of the recent conflict in the Middle East.⁴³ It is vital that the U.S. not fall behind its global competitors.

⁴⁰ *Middle East crisis disrupts international natural gas markets and delays global LNG supply wave*, INT’L ENERGY AGENCY (Apr. 24, 2026), <https://www.iea.org/news/middle-east-crisis-disrupts-international-natural-gas-markets-and-delays-global-lng-supply-wave>.

⁴¹ *Id.* (emphasis added).

⁴² Charles Newbery, *Argentina’s YPF moves faster on LNG export projects on strong demand for new supply*, PLATTS GAS DAILY, at 5 (May 11, 2026); see also Bloomberg, *Eni and Repsol plan to start Venezuela LNG exports in 2031*, ENERGYWIRE (Apr. 21, 2026), <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2026/04/21/eni-and-repsol-plan-to-start-venezuela-gas-exports-in-2031-00881592>.

⁴³ Paul Vieira, *Canada Moves Toward Energy Superpower Goal With German LNG Deal*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (May 27, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/world/americas/canada-moves-toward-energy-superpower-goal-with-german-lng-deal-0ef86947> (“[Canadian Energy Minister Tim Hodgson] said Germany, in the aftermath of Russia-Ukraine war, turned to the Middle East for LNG supply.... ‘Almost all of the LNG that’s produced in the Middle East comes through the Strait of Hormuz,’ he said. ‘That’s no longer a reliable source.’”).

Employment and Economic Impacts

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 14,154, DOE is required to consider the “economic and employment impacts to the United States” as part of its public interest analysis under Section 3 of the NGA.⁴⁴ To understand these potential impacts, RGLNG Train 6 commissioned The Perryman Group to estimate the Project’s economic and employment benefits during the construction and operational phases.⁴⁵ Consistent with the 2024 LNG Export Study’s Key Finding Nos. 2, 3 and 8, the Perryman Report confirmed that construction and operation of the Project is anticipated to result in significant positive impacts on the local, state, and U.S. economies through “improvements to the U.S. trade balance, increased federal and state tax revenues, and increased jobs.”⁴⁶

Over the anticipated four and a half year construction schedule, the Project will require an average workforce of approximately 2,000 workers, with a peak workforce of up to 4,800 workers (3,800 day shift and 1,000 night shift).⁴⁷ These new construction jobs will have a significant positive economic impact on a region with an “unemployment rate [that] has been rising and is trending well above the state and national levels.”⁴⁸ During operations, the Project is expected to add 80 full-time employees and 40 contract staff.

More broadly, when accounting for multiplier effects, construction would lead to an estimated gain in business activity over the construction phase, including \$1.6 billion in gross

⁴⁴ *Supra* n.32, at § 8.

⁴⁵ *See FERC Application*, at Exh. F, Resource Report 5, at App. 5A (hereinafter, the “Perryman Report”).

⁴⁶ *See Order No. 5404*, at 34-35 (explaining DOE’s conclusion that higher levels of U.S. LNG exports improve the U.S. trade balance and increase jobs and tax revenues); *see also, generally, Perryman Report*.

⁴⁷ *See FERC Application*, at 16 & Exh. F, Resource Report 5, at 4.

⁴⁸ *Perryman Report*, at 3 (further noting that “[t]he potential expansion of the authorized Rio Grande LNG Terminal offers much-needed opportunities for local residents and businesses.”).

product and about 15,110 job-years⁴⁹ in Cameron County, with \$6.0 billion in gross product and 54,030 job-years for Texas and \$9.1 billion in gross product and 79,910 job-years for the United States.⁵⁰ The economic and employment benefit (including multiplier effects) of incremental operations of the Rio Grande LNG Expansion Project at maturity include a projected \$96.5 million in annual gross product and about 720 jobs in Cameron County, \$152.0 million in annual gross product and about 1,000 jobs in Texas, and \$165.9 million in annual gross product and 1,090 jobs for the United States.⁵¹

With regard to tax benefits, during construction, the Project will generate an estimated \$1.5 billion in federal taxes, almost \$319.3 million to the State of Texas, \$134.0 million to other states, \$75.4 million to Cameron County, and \$329.3 million to other local taxing entities. Once operational, the annual increase in tax receipts is estimated to include a projected \$28.2 million in federal taxes, \$7.1 million to the State of Texas, \$0.3 million to other states, approximately \$3.9 million to Cameron County, and almost \$2.5 million to other local taxing entities.⁵²

The export of additional volumes of LNG will also have positive macroeconomic effects for the U.S. economy as a whole. In this regard, the Project's purpose is consistent with the current U.S. policy to unleash America's affordable and reliable energy and natural resources and rebuild the nation's economic security.⁵³ The liquefaction and export of additional natural gas represents a market-based solution to support and expand the market for the United States' vast natural gas

⁴⁹ See *Perryman Report*, at 10. A job-year is one person working for one year, though it could be multiple individuals working partial years.

⁵⁰ *Id.* Note that results for each larger geographic area include effects within smaller ones, as well as spillover to other parts of the area.

⁵¹ *Id.* at 11.

⁵² See *Perryman Report*, at 13. Note that these tax revenues are associated with the increase in business activity related to the Project; but the Perryman Report did not examine any potential tax abatement agreements.

⁵³ See *supra* n.32.

resources. Consistent with Key Finding No. 3, it is also anticipated that the Project would have a marked effect on the U.S. balance of trade. The Perryman Report estimates that “the improvement in the international balance of payments of the United States associated with the Rio Grande LNG Expansion Project could potentially range from \$3.5 billion to \$5.3 billion per year based on current prices and expected future patterns, with the actual amount depending on destination, transportation costs, and other market factors.”⁵⁴

Natural Gas Supply and Price Impacts

In accordance with the 1984 Policy Guidelines, and consistent with Key Finding No. 1, long-term projections for U.S. natural gas supply and demand continue to show that ample U.S. natural gas will be available to meet international need, while still meeting domestic demand requirements. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (“EIA”) indicated in its Annual Energy Outlook for 2026 that “LNG exports grow substantially in nearly all cases” reviewed.⁵⁵ Consistent with this demand, EIA projects that “dry U.S. natural gas production [will] rise[] significantly, increasing from 107 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in 2025 to between 133 Bcf/d and 151 Bcf/d by 2050 in most ... cases.”⁵⁶ In this regard, and consistent with the most recent findings by DOE, it is anticipated that “U.S domestic natural gas supply is sufficient to meet domestic and market-based global demand for U.S. natural gas (including LNG).”⁵⁷

At the same time, DOE continues to find that increased LNG exports will result in only minimal potential price increases for domestic consumers. For example, in the 2024 LNG Export Study, DOE found that “any domestic price impact is expected to be minimal due to the abundant

⁵⁴ *Perryman Report*, at 16.

⁵⁵ U.S. Energy Info. Admin., *Annual Energy Outlook 2026*, at 26 (Apr. 8, 2026), available at https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/pdf/AEO_Narrative.pdf.

⁵⁶ *Id.* at 24.

⁵⁷ *See Order No. 5391*, at 18.

supply of natural gas in the United States.”⁵⁸ In this regard, DOE has recently concluded that “impacts on household and industrial energy expenditures, which may be as small as the margin of error of the analysis, are insufficient to overcome the other economic benefits associated with increased LNG exports, including GDP, balance of trade, tax revenue, and employment effects.”⁵⁹ Moreover, DOE’s findings with respect to price impacts continue to be supported by EIA’s short-term forecasts. For example, EIA’s May 2026 Short-Term Energy Outlook (“STEO”) reduced its forecasted Henry Hub spot price by 4.4% for 2026 (to \$3.50/MMBtu) and 11.5% for 2027 (to \$3.18/MMBtu) from the April STEO, despite U.S. LNG terminal operators adding approximately 0.9 Bcf/d of new LNG export capacity in April.⁶⁰ The May STEO further projects that average LNG exports will increase by 1.9 bcf/d over 2025 levels in 2026 to 17.0 bcf/d, and by an additional 1.2 bcf/d over 2026 projected levels in 2027 to 18.2 bcf/d,⁶¹ all while domestic natural gas prices continue to fall. These current short-term projections are consistent with Key Finding No. 4, and demonstrate that the additional LNG exports associated with the Project are not inconsistent with the public interest.

Approval of Exports from the Authorized RGLNG Terminal

Finally, DOE has previously confirmed that exports to Non-FTA Countries from the Authorized RGLNG Terminal are not inconsistent with the public interest, and a substantial record

⁵⁸ *Response to Comments*, at 48; see also *Venture Global CP2 LNG, LLC*, Order Denying Request for Rehearing of Final Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries, DOE/HGEO Order No. 5264-B, Docket No. 21-131-LNG, at 13 (Mar. 26, 2026) (hereinafter, “Order No. 5264-B”).

⁵⁹ *Order No. 5264-B*, at 15 (cleaned up).

⁶⁰ See U.S. Energy Info. Admin., *Short-Term Energy Outlook – May 2026*, at 3-4 & 13 (May 12, 2026), available at <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/archives/may26.pdf>.

⁶¹ *Id.* at tbl. 5A.

in support of such exports was developed in that proceeding.⁶² Therefore, RGLNG Train 6 hereby incorporates by reference the record developed in Docket No. 15-190-LNG.

X. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (“NEPA”),⁶³ and in accordance with both the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the NGA,⁶⁴ the Commission will be the lead agency reviewing potential environmental impacts of the Project. RGLNG Train 6 anticipates that DOE will participate as a cooperating agency in the Commission’s environmental review process for the Project, and in this regard, will be able to provide comments on the Environmental Report submitted as Exhibit F to the FERC Application, and any other environmental documentation filed with the Commission by RGLNG Train 6. DOE will also have the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement produced by FERC staff.

As demonstrated by the Environmental Report submitted with the FERC Application, environmental impacts of the Project are extremely limited. The Project will not result in any greenfield impacts, and all permanent impacts are on brownfield/previously disturbed areas. Moreover, as discussed in detail in the Resource Reports included in Exhibit F to the FERC Application, potential adverse impacts, if any, will be avoided or sufficiently mitigated. Furthermore, the Project is primarily proposed to be located in an area previously reviewed and approved by FERC for activities related to the Authorized RGLNG Terminal, and the Commission has extensively analyzed the environmental impacts of the Authorized RGLNG Terminal under NEPA.

⁶² *Supra* nn.8-11.

⁶³ 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*

⁶⁴ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(e); 15 U.S.C. § 717n(b)(1).

The U.S. Supreme Court’s holding in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado* makes clear that agencies should have discretion in determining the scope of their environmental review, and significantly, agencies are not required to analyze the effects of activities over which they do not exercise regulatory authority.⁶⁵ As DOE has noted, the scope of DOE’s authority under Section 3 of the NGA and the associated NEPA review is limited to analysis of potential environmental impacts resulting from activities occurring at or after the point of export and DOE has determined that these impacts are limited to marine transport effects.⁶⁶ In this regard, DOE concluded that “the transport of natural gas by marine vessels adhering to applicable maritime safety regulations and established shipping methods and safety standards normally does not pose the potential for significant environmental impacts.”⁶⁷ Accordingly, in recent orders⁶⁸ DOE has complied with its NEPA obligation through application of categorical exclusion B5.7, Export of Natural Gas and Associated Transportation by Marine Vessel,⁶⁹ and RGLNG Train 6 requests that DOE do the same here, exempting DOE from the requirement to prepare an

⁶⁵ *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado*, 605 U.S. 168, 188 (2025) (“In other words, agencies are not required to analyze the effects of projects over which they do not exercise regulatory authority.”).

⁶⁶ U.S. Dep’t of Energy, National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures, Final Rule, 85 Fed. Reg. 78,197, 78,197 (Dec. 4, 2020); U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Technical Support Document, Notice of Final Rulemaking, National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (10 C.F.R. Part 1021) (Nov. 2020) (hereinafter “Marine Transport Technical Support Document”); *see also Venture Global CP2 LNG, LLC*, Final Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, DOE/FECM Order No. 5264-A, Docket No. 21-131-LNG, at 55-56 (Oct. 21, 2025) (noting DOE has “determined that transport of natural gas by marine vessel normally does not pose the potential for significant environmental impacts”).

⁶⁷ 85 Fed. Reg. at 78,200; *see also Order No. 5391*, at 12.

⁶⁸ *See Order No. 5264-B*, at 32 (“This proceeding too marks a course correction.... As noted above, the only environmental impacts within the scope of DOE’s export authority are marine transport effects, which DOE generally will consider under the B5.7 categorical exclusion on a case-by-case basis in accordance with applicable NEPA law.”) (*quoting Seven County*, 605 U.S. at 184); *see also, e.g., Order No. 5404*, at 8-9; *Order No. 5391*, at 8.

⁶⁹ 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, Subpart. D, App. B, Categorical Exclusion B5.7.

environmental impact statement or environmental assessment in conjunction with the authorization requested herein.

XI. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Verification

Appendix B: Opinion of Counsel

Appendix C: Project Site Lease (CUI/PRIV – Privileged & Confidential – DO NOT RELEASE)

XII. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, RGLNG Train 6 respectfully submits that the LNG exports proposed herein are not inconsistent with, and clearly serve, the public interest. Accordingly, as requested herein, RGLNG Train 6 respectfully requests that DOE issue authorization to export LNG to FTA Countries without undue delay, and authorization to export LNG to Non-FTA Countries by no later than March 2027. RGLNG Train 6 also requests any waivers DOE may deem necessary to grant the authorizations requested herein.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lisa M. Tonery

Lisa M. Tonery

Mariah T. Johnston

Jacob I. Cunningham

Anna K. Simon

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Attorneys for Rio Grande LNG Train 6, LLC

Dated: June 11, 2026

APPENDIX A

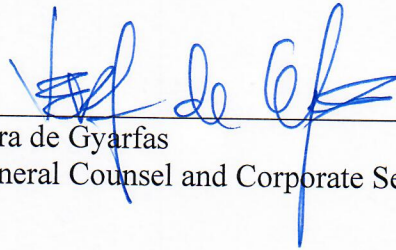
Verification

VERIFICATION

State of Texas

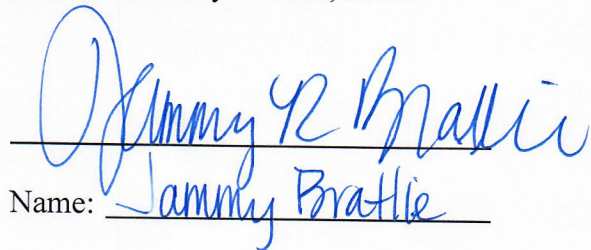
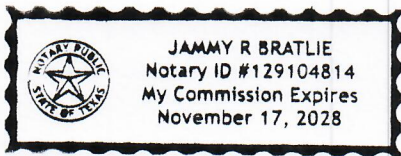
County of Harris

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Vera de Gyarfas, who, having been by me first duly sworn, on oath says that she is the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for NextDecade Corporation and is duly authorized to make this Verification; that she has read the foregoing instrument and that the facts therein stated are true and correct to the best of her knowledge, information and belief.



Vera de Gyarfas
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on the 10th day of June, 2026.



Name: Jammy Brattie

Title: Notary Public

My Commission expires: November 17, 2028

APPENDIX B
Opinion of Counsel

June 10, 2026

U.S. Department of Energy (EX-31)
Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office
Office of Global Energy Security
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

**RE: Rio Grande LNG Train 6, LLC
Docket No. 26-__-LNG
Application for Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Free
Trade Agreement Countries and Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries**

Dear Sir or Madam:

This opinion of counsel is provided in accordance with the requirements of section 590.202(c) of the U.S. Department of Energy's regulations, 10 C.F.R. § 590.202(c) (2025). I have examined the organizational and internal governance documents of Rio Grande LNG Train 6, LLC ("RGLNG Train 6") and other authorities as necessary and have concluded that the proposed exportation of liquefied natural gas is within RGLNG Train 6's company powers.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Vera de Gyafas
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
NextDecade Corporation
1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 3300
Houston, TX 77002
(832) 900-4274

CUI//PRIV - PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL - DO NOT RELEASE

APPENDIX C
Project Site Lease

(filed separately)