

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

RIO GRANDE LNG, LLC,)
RIO GRANDE LNG TRAIN 4, LLC,)
RIO GRANDE LNG TRAIN 5, LLC)

DOCKET NO. 15-190-LNG

ORDER AMENDING LONG-TERM AUTHORIZATION
TO EXPORT LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS
TO FREE TRADE AGREEMENT NATIONS

DOE/HGEO ORDER NO. 3869-B

JUNE 12, 2026

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On December 17, 2025, Rio Grande LNG, LLC (RGLNG), Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC (RGLNG4), and Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC (RGLNG5) (collectively, the RGLNG Entities) filed an application (Amendment Application)¹ with the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office² under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA).³ As explained below, the RGLNG Entities⁴ ask DOE for a limited amendment to their existing long-term export authorizations.

The RGLNG Entities are authorized to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) by vessel from the Rio Grande LNG Terminal (Terminal), which is currently under construction on the north embankment of the Brownsville Ship Channel in Cameron County, Texas,⁵ under the following orders:

- (i) DOE/FE Order No. 3869, as amended,⁶ authorizing exports to any country with which the United States currently has, or in the future will have, a free trade agreement (FTA) requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas (FTA

¹ Rio Grande LNG, LLC, *et al.*, Application for Amendment to Authorizations to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Free Trade and Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries, Docket No. 15-190-LNG (Dec. 17, 2025) [hereinafter Amendment App.].

² 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.

³ 15 U.S.C. § 717b. The authority to regulate the imports and exports of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas, under section 3 of the NGA has been delegated to the Assistant Secretary for FECM (now the Assistant Secretary for HGEO) in Redelegation Order No. S4-DEL-FE1-2023, issued on April 10, 2023.

⁴ On August 20, 2025, DOE granted the RGLNG Entities’ request to add RGLNG4 and RGLNG5 as joint authorization holders. *See Rio Grande LNG, LLC, et al.*, DOE/FECM Orders No. 3869-A and 4492-B, Docket No. 15-190-LNG, Order Granting Request to Amend Authorizations to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Add Authorization Holders (Aug. 20, 2025).

⁵ Amendment App. at 1 n.5.

⁶ *Rio Grande LNG, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 3869, Docket No. 15-190-LNG, 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 (Aug. 17, 2016), *amended by* DOE/FECM Order No. 3869-A (Aug. 20, 2025) (adding authorization holders).

countries) for a 30-year term, pursuant to NGA section 3(c);⁷ and

- (ii) DOE/FE Order No. 4492, as amended,⁸ authorizing exports to any other country with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy (non-FTA countries) for a term extending through December 31, 2050, pursuant to NGA section 3(a).⁹

These orders authorize exports to FTA and non-FTA countries on a non-additive basis in a total volume equivalent to 1,318 billion cubic feet per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas, which the RGLNG Entities state is approximately 27.0 million metric tons per annum (mtpa) of LNG.¹⁰

In the Amendment Application, as relevant here,¹¹ the RGLNG Entities ask DOE to make two amendments to their authorized FTA export volume in Order No. 3869 (Order), as amended. First, the RGLNG Entities state that their original application for export authorization in 2015 “utilized a conservative conversion factor of 48.7 Bcf per million metric tons of natural gas.”¹² They request that DOE amend the Order to use DOE’s “standard conversion factor ‘of 51.75 Bcf per million metric tons of dry natural gas.’”¹³ The RGLNG Entities state that, using DOE’s conversion factor, the Terminal’s current LNG production capacity of 27 mtpa, authorized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), would equate to 1,397.25

⁷ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c). The United States currently has FTAs requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas with Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, and Singapore. FTAs with Israel and Costa Rica do not require national treatment for trade in natural gas.

⁸ *Rio Grande LNG, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 4492, Docket No. 15-190-LNG, Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (Feb. 10, 2020), *amended by* DOE/FE Order No. 4492-A (Oct. 21, 2020) (extending export term), *further amended by* DOE/FECM Order No. 4492-B (Aug. 20, 2025) (adding authorization holders).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a).

¹⁰ Amendment App. at 2, 4.

¹¹ DOE will review the portion of the Amendment Application requesting an amendment to the RGLNG Entities’ existing authorization to export LNG to non-FTA countries separately pursuant to NGA section 3(a), 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a).

¹² Amendment App. at 5-6; *see also id.* at 4.

¹³ *Id.* at 5 & n.16 (quoting U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Small-Scale Natural Gas Exports; Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 82 FR 41570, 41573 (Sept. 1, 2017) (“When converting from million metric tons to billion cubic feet, DOE uses a conversion factor of 51.75 Bcf per million metric tons of dry natural gas.”)). The RGLNG Entities also cite other proceedings in which DOE used this conversion factor. *See id.*

Bcf/yr of natural gas, resulting in a “nominal increase” of 79.25 Bcf/yr of natural gas over the authorized export volume of 1,318 Bcf/yr of natural gas in the Order.¹⁴

Second, the RGLNG Entities state that they filed an application with FERC to amend their NGA section 3 authorization from 27.0 mtpa to 30.15 mtpa (equivalent to 3.15 mtpa or approximately 163.01 Bcf/yr of natural gas), to align the Terminal’s approved maximum LNG production capacity with the actual anticipated liquefaction output under optimal operating conditions.¹⁵ The RGLNG Entities request that DOE increase the authorized export volume in the Order by 163.01 Bcf/yr to be “consistent with an anticipated increase in the Terminal’s maximum LNG production capacity under peak operating conditions up to 30.15 MTPA, for which approval is currently pending before FERC.”¹⁶

In sum, the RGLNG Entities request amendments of 79.25 Bcf/yr and 163.01 Bcf/yr, respectively, representing an increase of 242.26 Bcf/yr of natural gas in their authorized FTA volume under Order No. 3869, as amended—from 1,318 Bcf/yr to 1,560.26 Bcf/yr of natural gas.¹⁷ The RGLNG Entities further state that this proposed increase in peak liquefaction capacity does not require the construction of any new facilities or the modification of the previously authorized Terminal facilities.¹⁸

In this Order, DOE grants the RGLNG Entities’ requested amendments to increase the export volume in their FTA authorization, pursuant to NGA section 3(c).¹⁹ The portion of the Application seeking to increase the export volume in the RGLNG Entities’ non-FTA

¹⁴ *See id.* at 6.

¹⁵ *See id.* at 2, 5, 6.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 2.

¹⁷ Amendment App. at 2, 6.

¹⁸ *See id.* at 2, 5, 6.

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c).

authorization (DOE/FE Order No. 4492, as amended) will be reviewed pursuant to NGA section 3(a)²⁰ and addressed in a separate order.

II. FINDINGS

Section 3(c) of the NGA was amended by section 201 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-486) to require that applications requesting authority for (a) the import and export of natural gas, including LNG, from and to a nation with which there is in effect a FTA requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas, and/or (b) the import of LNG from other international sources, be deemed consistent with the public interest and granted without modification or delay. The FTA portion of the RGLNG Entities' Amendment Application falls within section 3(c) of the NGA, as amended. Therefore, DOE grants the requested amendments to the RGLNG Entities' FTA authorization without modification or delay.²¹ This grant of the requested amendment should not be read to indicate DOE's views on the non-FTA portion of the RGLNG Entities' pending Amendment application or the requested amendment thereto.²²

ORDER

Pursuant to sections 3 and 16 of the Natural Gas Act, DOE hereby orders as follows:

A. Ordering Paragraph A of Order No. 3869, as amended most recently in Order No. 3869-A, is amended to state as follows:

Rio Grande LNG, LLC, Rio Grande LNG Train 4, LLC, and Rio Grande LNG Train 5, LLC (collectively, the RGLNG Entities) are jointly authorized to export domestically produced LNG by vessel from the Rio

²⁰ *Id.* § 717b(a).

²¹ DOE further finds that the requirement for public notice of applications, along with other hearing-type procedures in 10 C.F.R. Part 590, applies only to applications seeking to export natural gas, including LNG, to countries with which the United States does not have a FTA requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas.

²² *See supra* note 11.

Grande LNG Terminal, to be located on the north embankment of the Brownsville Ship Channel in Cameron County, Texas. The volume authorized in this Order is equivalent to 1,560.26 Bcf/yr of natural gas for a 30-year term commencing on the date of first export. The RGLNG Entities are jointly authorized to export the LNG on their own behalf and as agent for other entities who hold title to the natural gas, pursuant to one or more contracts of any duration.²³

This amended Ordering Paragraph A supersedes Ordering Paragraph A in Order No. 3869, as previously amended, in its entirety.

B. All other obligations, rights, and responsibilities established by DOE/FE Order No. 3869, as amended, remain in effect.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on June 12, 2026.

Amy Sweeney
Director, Office of Global Energy Security
Office of Strategic Resources

²³ See U.S. Dep't of Energy, Including Short-Term Export Authority in Long-Term Authorizations for the Export of Natural Gas on a Non-Additive Basis, 86 Fed. Reg. 2243 (Jan. 12, 2021).