UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

HYDROCARBONS AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY OFFICE

ARGENT LNG, LLC	)	DOCKET NO. 26-28-LNG

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

DOE/HGEO ORDER NO. 5447

JULY 23, 2026

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On March 10, 2026, Argent LNG, LLC (Argent LNG) filed an application (Application)[1] with the Department of Energy's (DOE) Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO)[2] under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)[3] and Part 590 of DOE's regulations.[4] Argent LNG requests long-term, multi-contract authorization to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) in a volume equivalent to 1,293.75 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year (Bcf/yr) of natural gas, or approximately 25 million metric tons per annum (mtpa) of LNG.[5] Argent LNG seeks to export this LNG by vessel from its proposed terminal at Port Fourchon in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, adjacent to Belle Pass and Bayou Lafourche (Project).[6]

Argent LNG requests authorization to export this LNG to any country with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy.[7] This includes both countries with which the United States has entered into a free trade agreement (FTA) requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas (FTA countries),[8] and any other country with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy (non-FTA countries).[9] Argent LNG requests both the FTA and non-FTA authorization on a non-additive basis for a term of 20 years, to commence on the date of first commercial export,

[1] Argent LNG, LLC, Application for Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Free Trade and Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, Docket No. 26-28-LNG (Mar. 10, 2026) [hereinafter 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] 10 C.F.R. Part 590.
[5] App. at 1.
[6] *Id.* at 1, 3.
[7] *See id.* at 1.
[8] 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.
[9] *Id.* § 717b(a).

plus a three-year Make-Up Period, consistent with recent DOE practice.[10] Argent LNG requests the authorization on its own behalf and as agent for other entities that hold title to the LNG at the time of export.[11]

The portion of Argent LNG's Application that seeks authorization to export domestically produced LNG to FTA countries is being reviewed pursuant to NGA section 3(c)[12] and approved in this Order. The portion of the Application that seeks authorization to export domestically produced LNG to non-FTA countries will be reviewed pursuant to NGA section 3(a)[13] and addressed in a separate order.[14]

II. BACKGROUND

Applicant. Argent LNG is a Louisiana limited liability company with its principal place of business in Metairie, Louisiana.[15] Argent LNG states that it "owns the assets for the project."[16] According to Argent LNG, Argent LNG HoldCo LLC (HoldCo), a Delaware limited liability company, is the sole member of Argent LNG.[17] Argent LNG adds that Argent LNG Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (Argent Holdings), owns a controlling equity interest in HoldCo, while Baker Hughes Energy Services LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, owns a minority percentage (5%) of the equity of HoldCo.[18] Argent LNG

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[10] App. at 2. *See also* U.S. Dep't of Energy, Extending Natural Gas Export Authorizations to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries Through the Year 2050; Notice of Final Policy Statement and Response to Comments, 85 Fed. Reg. 52,237 (Aug. 25, 2020) [hereinafter 2050 Policy Statement]. Additionally, DOE notes that, effective January 12, 2021, long-term export authorizations contain authority to export the same approved volume of LNG pursuant to transactions with terms of less than two years, including commissioning volumes, on a non-additive basis. *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; Policy Statement, 86 Fed. Reg. 2243 (Jan. 12, 2021).
[11] App. at 2.
[12] 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c).
[13] *Id.* § 717b(a).
[14] *See* Argent LNG, LLC, Application for Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations, 91 Fed. Reg. 14,834 (Mar. 27, 2026).
[15] App. at 3.
[16] *Id.*
[17] *Id.*
[18] *Id.*

represents that Jonathan Bass is the sole member of Argent Holdings.[19] Argent LNG also states that its officers and directors are all U.S. citizens, and that it "is not owned, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by any foreign government, nor has it committed by contract to allow such ownership by any foreign government."[20]

Proposed Argent LNG Project. Argent LNG states that "[t]he Project will be constructed on an approximately 900-acre parcel at Port Fourchon in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, adjacent to Belle Pass and Bayou Lafourche."[21] Argent LNG adds that it "has secured the property rights necessary to develop the Project, including the marine facilities, through a long-term lease agreement with the Port of Fourchon[, which] has a 30-year primary term with options for two additional 30-year renewal periods."[22]

According to Argent LNG, the Project "would consist of pre-treatment facilities, 12 modular liquefaction units, 2 full-containment membrane, 220,000-[cubic meter] LNG storage tanks, an approximately 350-[megawatt] simple-cycle gas turbine power generation facility, 2 LNG marine loading berths capable of accommodating LNG carriers generally ranging from 125,000 to 260,000 [cubic meters] of cargo capacity, as well as smaller LNG bunker vehicles, and other appurtenant facilities."[23]

Argent LNG notes that it "initiated the pre-filing process at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ('FERC') in September 2025 prior to filing its formal application for authorization from FERC under Section 3 of the NGA for authorization to site, construct, and operate the Argent LNG Project."[24] Argent LNG states that it "currently anticipates

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[19] *Id.*
[20] *Id.*
[21] App. at 3. Argent LNG provides a map of the Project site as Exhibit 1 to the Application.
[22] *Id.* Argent LNG also provides a copy of the lease agreement as Exhibit 2 (filed under seal), along with the notice of contract of lease as Exhibit 3. *See id.* at 3–4.
[23] *Id.* at 4.
[24] *Id.*

commencing construction in December 2027, with service anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2030."[25]

<u>Source of Supply</u>. According to Argent LNG, its "Project anticipates receiving feedgas via approximately 0.7 miles of new dual 16-inch-diameter pipelines interconnecting with the existing Kinetica interstate natural gas pipeline system, as well as other interstate and intrastate pipeline systems" in the Project's vicinity.[26] Argent LNG asserts that, "[b]y design, the Project is not dependent upon any particular natural gas supply source and will have access, through the interconnected pipeline grid, to a wide variety of supply sources and production areas[.]"[27]

<u>Business Model</u>. Argent LNG requests this authorization on its own behalf and as agent for other entities who will hold title to the LNG at the time of export.[28] Argent LNG states that it will comply with all DOE requirements for exporters and agents, including registration requirements.[29]

Argent LNG notes that it has not yet entered into long-term natural gas supply agreements for the requested exports,[30] but that "it will file such contracts with [DOE] once executed."[31] Argent LNG further states that, "[c]onsistent with established [DOE] policy and precedent, [it] will file all long-term commercial agreements associated with the export of LNG from the [Project] with [HGEO] once executed."[32]

Argent LNG adds that, despite not having signed any contracts so far, it "has signed a non-binding Heads of Agreement with the Government of Bangladesh for up to 5 MTPA of

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[25] *Id.*
[26] App. at 4.
[27] *Id.*
[28] *Id.* at 2, 5.
[29] *See id.* at 5–6.
[30] *See id.* at 4.
[31] *Id.* at 5.
[32] App. at 5.

long-term U.S. LNG supply[,]"[33] along with "a strategic co-operation agreement with Enerji Piyasalari İşletme A.Ş., Türkiye's gas and electricity exchange, to strengthen U.S. LNG supply, storage, and regional market integration across Southeast and Central Europe."[34] Argent LNG states that "more agreements are under discussion with governments and utilities across Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and Latin America."[35]

III. FINDINGS

(1) 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 Argent LNG's Application falls within section 3(c), as amended, and therefore, DOE grants the requested FTA authorization without modification or delay.[36]

(2) In light of DOE's statutory obligation to grant the FTA portion of this Application without modification or delay, there is no need for DOE to review other arguments asserted by Argent LNG in support of the Application. The instant grant of authority should not be read to indicate DOE's views on those arguments or on Argent LNG's request for non-FTA export authorization.

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[33] *Id.* at 4.
[34] *Id.* at 4–5.
[35] *Id.* at 5.
[36] DOE further finds that the requirement for public notice of applications and other hearing-type procedures in 10 C.F.R. Part 590 are applicable only to applications seeking to export natural gas, including LNG, to non-FTA countries.

(3) The countries with which the United States has a FTA requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas currently are: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, and Singapore.

(4) Argent LNG requests authorization to export LNG on its own behalf and as agent for other entities that hold title to the LNG at the time of export. DOE previously addressed the issue of Agency Rights in DOE/FE Order No. 2913,[37] which granted Freeport LNG Expansion, L.P., *et al.* (collectively, FLEX) authority to export LNG to FTA countries. In that order, DOE approved a proposal by FLEX to register each LNG title holder for whom FLEX sought to export LNG as agent. DOE found that this proposal was an acceptable alternative to the non-binding policy adopted by DOE in *The Dow Chemical Company*,[38] which established that the title for all LNG authorized for export must be held by the authorization holder at the point of export. DOE finds that the same policy considerations that supported DOE's acceptance of the alternative registration proposal in DOE/FE Order No. 2913 apply here as well.

DOE has reiterated its policy on Agency Rights procedures in other authorizations, including *Cameron LNG, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 3680.[39] In that order, DOE determined that, in LNG export orders in which Agency Rights have been granted, DOE shall require registration materials filed for, or by, an LNG title-holder (Registrant) to include the same company

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[37] *Freeport LNG Expansion, L.P., et al.*, DOE/FE Order No 2913, Docket No. 10-160-LNG, Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas from Freeport LNG Terminal to Free Trade Nations (Feb. 10, 2011).

[38] *The Dow Chemical Company*, DOE/FE Order No. 2859, Docket No. 10-57-LNG, Order Granting Blanket Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas, at 7–8 (Oct. 5, 2010), discussed in *Freeport LNG*, DOE/FE Order No. 2913, at 7–8.

[39] *Cameron LNG, LLC*, DOE/FE Order No. 3680, Docket No. 15-36-LNG, Order Granting Long-Term Multi-Contract Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas by Vessel from the Cameron LNG Terminal in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes, Louisiana, to Free Trade Agreement Nations (July 10, 2015).

identification information and long-term contract information of the Registrant as if the Registrant had filed an application to export LNG on its own behalf.[40]

To ensure that the public interest is served, this authorization requires that, where Argent LNG proposes to export LNG as agent, it must register the Registrants with DOE in accordance with the procedures and requirements described herein.

(5) Section 590.202(b) of DOE's regulations requires applicants to supply transaction-specific factual information "to the extent practicable."[41] Additionally, DOE regulations at 10 C.F.R. § 590.202(e) allow confidential treatment of the information supplied in support of or in opposition to an application if the submitting party requests such treatment, shows why the information should be exempted from public disclosure, and DOE determines it will be afforded confidential treatment in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 1004.11.

(6) DOE will require that Argent LNG file or cause to be filed with DOE any relevant long-term commercial agreements or contracts pursuant to which Argent LNG exports LNG as agent for a Registrant once those agreements or contracts have been executed. DOE finds that the submission of all such agreements or contracts within 30 days of their execution using the procedures described below will be consistent with the "to the extent practicable" requirement of section 590.202(b). By way of example and without limitation, a "relevant long-term commercial agreement" includes an agreement with a minimum term of two years.

(7) DOE also will require Argent LNG to file any long-term contracts Argent LNG enters into providing for the long-term export of LNG on its own behalf from the proposed Project. DOE finds that the submission of these contracts within 30 days of their execution using

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[40] *Id.* at 8–9.
[41] 10 C.F.R. § 590.202(b).

the procedures described below will be consistent with the "to the extent practicable" requirement of section 590.202(b).

(8) In addition, DOE finds that section 590.202(c) of DOE's regulations[42] requires that Argent LNG file, or cause to be filed, all long-term contracts associated with the long-term supply of natural gas to the Project, whether signed by Argent LNG or the Registrant, within 30 days of their execution.

(9) DOE recognizes that some information in Argent LNG's or a Registrant's long-term commercial agreements associated with the export of LNG, and/or long-term contracts associated with the long-term supply of natural gas to the Project, may be commercially sensitive. DOE therefore will provide Argent LNG the option to file or cause to be filed either unredacted contracts, or in the alternative: (A) Argent LNG may file, or cause to be filed, long-term contracts under seal, but it also will file for public posting, within 30 days of the contract execution date, either: (i) a copy of each long-term contract with commercially sensitive information redacted, or (ii) a summary of all major provisions of the contract(s) including, but not limited to, the parties to each contract, contract term, quantity, any take or pay or equivalent provisions/conditions, destination, re-sale provisions, and other relevant provisions; and (B) the filing must demonstrate why the redacted or non-disclosed information should be exempted from public disclosure.[43]

To ensure that DOE destination and reporting requirements included in the Order are conveyed to subsequent title holders, DOE will include as a condition of this authorization that future contracts for the sale or transfer of LNG exported pursuant to the Order shall include an acknowledgement of these requirements.

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[42] *Id.* § 590.202(c).
[43] *Id.* § 590.202(e) (allowing confidential treatment of information in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 1004.11).

(10) Consistent with DOE's current practice and Argent LNG's request, Argent LNG will be permitted to continue exporting the approved volume of LNG from the Project for a total of three years following the end of the export term. During this Make-Up Period, Argent LNG will be permitted to continue exporting from the Project, solely to export any approved volume of LNG that it is unable to export during the original export period (the Make-Up Volume).[44]

ORDER

Pursuant to section 3 of the NGA, it is ordered that:

A. Argent LNG, LLC (Argent LNG) is authorized to export domestically produced LNG by vessel from the proposed Argent LNG Project, to be located at Port Fourchon in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, adjacent to Belle Pass and Bayou Lafourche. The volume authorized in this Order is equivalent to 1,293.75 Bcf/yr of natural gas for a 20-year term to commence on the date of first commercial export from the Project. Argent LNG may continue exporting any Make-Up Volume for a three-year Make-Up Period following the export term.[45] Argent LNG is authorized to export this LNG on its own behalf and as agent for other entities that hold title to the LNG, pursuant to one or more contracts of any duration.[46]

B. This LNG may be exported to Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, and Singapore, and to any nation with which the United States subsequently enters into a FTA requiring national treatment for trade in natural

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[44] *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, at 3–5 (June 30, 2025).

[45] This three-year Make-Up Period does not affect or modify the export volume authorized in this Order. Insofar as Argent LNG may seek to export additional volumes not previously authorized, it will be required to obtain appropriate authorization from DOE.

[46] *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; Policy Statement, 86 Fed. Reg. 2243, 2245 (Jan. 12, 2021).

gas, provided that the destination nation has the capacity to import LNG via ocean-going vessels. FTA countries are currently identified by DOE at https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/how-obtain-authorization-import-andor-export-natural-gas-and-lng.

C. Argent LNG shall ensure that all transactions authorized by this Order are permitted and lawful under U.S. laws and policies, including the rules, regulations, orders, policies, and other determinations of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in rescission of this authorization and/or other civil or criminal remedies.

D. (i) Argent LNG shall file, or cause others to file, with the U.S. Department of Energy, Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office, Office of Strategic Resources, Office of Global Energy Security (EX-31) a non-redacted copy of all executed long-term contracts associated with the long-term export of LNG from the Project on its own behalf or as agent for other entities. The non-redacted must be filed within 30 days of their execution and may be filed under seal, as described above.

(ii) Argent LNG shall file, or cause others to file, with the Office of Global Energy Security a non-redacted copy of all executed long-term contracts associated with the long-term supply of natural gas to the Project. The non-redacted copies must be filed within 30 days of their execution and may be filed under seal, as described above.

E. Argent LNG is permitted to use its authorization to export LNG as agent for other LNG title-holders (Registrants), after registering those entities with DOE. Registration materials shall include an agreement by the Registrant to supply Argent LNG with all information necessary to permit Argent LNG to register that person or entity with DOE, including: (1) the Registrant's agreement to comply with this Order and all applicable requirements of DOE's regulations at 10 C.F.R. Part 590, including but not limited to destination restrictions; (2) the exact legal name of the Registrant, state/location of incorporation/registration, primary place of doing business, and the Registrant's ownership structure, including the ultimate parent entity if the Registrant is a subsidiary or affiliate of another entity; (3) the name, title, mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number of a corporate officer or employee of the Registrant to whom inquiries may be directed; and (4) within 30 days of execution, a copy of any long-term contracts not previously filed with DOE, described in Ordering Paragraph D of this Order.

Any change in the registration materials—including changes in company name, contact information, length of the long-term contract, termination of the long-term contract, or other relevant modification—shall be filed with DOE within 30 days of such change(s).

F. Argent LNG, or others for whom Argent LNG acts as agent, shall include the following provision in any agreement or other contract for the sale or transfer of LNG exported pursuant to this Order:

> Customer or purchaser acknowledges and agrees that it will resell or transfer LNG purchased hereunder for delivery only to countries identified in Ordering Paragraph B of DOE/HGEO Order No. 5447, issued July 23, 2026, in Docket No. 26-28-LNG, and/or to purchasers that have agreed in writing to limit their direct or indirect resale or transfer of such LNG to such countries. Customer or purchaser further commits to cause a report to be provided to Argent LNG, LLC that identifies the country (or countries) into which the LNG or natural gas was actually delivered, and to include in any resale contract for such LNG the necessary conditions to ensure that Argent LNG, LLC is made aware of all such actual destination countries.

G. Within two weeks after the first export of domestically produced LNG from the Project occurs, Argent LNG shall provide written notification of the date of first export to DOE.

H. Argent LNG shall file with the Office of Global Energy Security, on a semi-annual basis, written reports describing the progress of the proposed Project. The reports shall be filed on or by April 1 and October 1 of each year, and shall include information on the progress of the

Project, the date the Project is expected to be operational, and the status of any long-term supply and export contracts associated with the long-term export of LNG from the Project.

I. With respect to any change in control of the authorization holder, Argent LNG must comply with DOE's Procedures for Change in Control Affecting Applications and Authorizations to Import or Export Natural Gas.[47]

J. Monthly Reports: With respect to the exports authorized by this Order, Argent LNG shall file with the Office of Global Energy Security, within 30 days following the last day of each calendar month, a report on Form FE-746R indicating whether exports have been made. The first monthly report required by this Order is due not later than the 30th day of the month following the month of first export. In subsequent months, if exports have not occurred, a report of "no activity" for that month must be filed. If exports have occurred, the report must provide the information specified for each applicable activity and mode of transportation, as set forth in the Guidelines for Filing Monthly Reports. These Guidelines are available at https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/guidelines-filing-monthly-reports.
(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control No. 1901-0294)

K. All monthly report filings on Form FE-746R shall be made to the Office of Global Energy Security according to the methods of submission listed on the Form FE-746R reporting

[47] *See* U.S. Dep't of Energy, Procedures for Changes in Control Affecting Applications and Authorizations to Import or Export Natural Gas, 79 Fed. Reg. at 65,541–42 (Nov. 5, 2014).

instructions available at https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/regulation.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on July 23, 2026.

AMY SWEENEY

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