

U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination
Office of Fossil Energy



DOMINION ENERGY COVE POINT LNG, LP
FE DOCKET NO. 19-156-LNG


PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION: Dominion Energy Cove Point LNG, LP (DECP), a Delaware limited partnership with its primary place of business in Lusby, Maryland, filed an application (Application) with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) on December 23, 2019, seeking blanket authorization to engage in short-term exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from domestic sources and/or LNG previously imported by vessel from foreign sources. DECP requests authorization to export this LNG in a total volume equivalent to 250 billion cubic feet of natural gas on a cumulative basis over a two-year period. As relevant here, DECP seeks to export the LNG by vessel from DECP's existing Cove Point Terminal (Terminal) located 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). The Application was submitted pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act and 10 CFR Part 590 of the Department of Energy's (DOE) regulations.

In a prior proceeding, DOE has conducted a NEPA analysis for non-FTA exports from the Terminal that cover all facilities associated with the Application.¹ No new facilities or modification to any existing facilities at the Terminal are required in order for DECP to export the requested volume of LNG as a result of approval of the Application. DOE/FE's proposed action is to authorize the exports described in the Application if DOE/FE determines that such exports are not inconsistent with the public interest. If granted, the authorization would permit the requested LNG exports by vessel on a short-term basis from the Terminal, subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the DOE order.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPLIED: B5.7 - Import or export natural gas, with operational changes

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

[] The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited

¹ See *Dominion Energy Cove Point LNG, LP*, DOE/FE Order No. 3331-A, FE Docket No. 11-128-LNG, Final Opinion and Order Granting Long-Term, Multi-Contract Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas by Vessel from the Cove Point LNG Terminal in Calvert County, Maryland to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations (May 7, 2015), *as amended*, DOE/FE Order No. 3331-C (Aug. 4, 2017) (reflecting corporate name change).

to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

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. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

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.

Signature: Mark J. Matarrese Date Determined: 2/27/20

Mark J. Matarrese, NEPA Compliance Officer, Office of Fossil Energy