

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

COPEQ TRADING CO.

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FE DOCKET NO. 18-87-NG

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO AMEND AUTHORIZATION
TO EXPORT NATURAL GAS TO MEXICO

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 4227-A

On August 8, 2018, the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) issued DOE/FE Order No. 4227 (FE Docket No. 18-87-NG),¹ under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA).² DOE/FE Order No. 4227 grants Copeq Trading Co. (Copeq) long-term authorization to export up to 24.78 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas per year to Mexico for a 10-year term beginning on July 1, 2018.³

On October 23, 2020, DOE/FE received Copeq's request for an amendment to increase its maximum authorized export volume of natural gas from 24.78 Bcf per year to 31.97 Bcf per

¹ *Copeq Trading Co.*, DOE/FE Order No. 4227, FE Docket No. 18-87-NG, Order Granting Long-Term Authorization to Export Natural Gas To Mexico (Aug. 8, 2018) [hereinafter 2018 Order].

² Authority to regulate the imports and exports of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas, under section 3 of the NGA (15 U.S.C. § 717b) has been delegated to the Assistant Secretary for FE in Redelegation Order No. 00-002.04G issued on June 4, 2019.

³ 2018 Order at 4.

year, and to extend the term of its authorization by 30 months, through January 1, 2031.⁴ Copeq requests this amendment be made effective January 1, 2021.⁵

Copeq's request has been evaluated to determine if the proposed amendment meets the public interest requirements of section 3 of the NGA, as amended by section 201 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-486). Under section 3(c), the import and export of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), from and to a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas and the import of LNG from other international sources are deemed to be consistent with the public interest, and applications for such imports or exports must be granted without modification or delay.⁶ Copeq's request to amend its pre-existing authorization to export natural gas to Mexico, a nation with which a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas is in effect, meets the section 3(c) criterion and, therefore, is consistent with the public interest.

Finding good cause, DOE/FE hereby grants Copeq's request to amend the specified authorization to increase the currently authorized volume amount and to extend the effective term of its current authorization. Accordingly, pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, it is hereby ordered that DOE/FE Order No. 4227 is amended to authorize the export of 31.97 Bcf of natural gas per year to Mexico, and to extend the effective term of Copeq's authorization through January 1, 2031.

⁴ Copeq Trading Co., Request to Amend Long-Term Authorization to Export Natural Gas – Order 4227, FE Docket No. 18-87-NG (Oct. 23, 2020) [hereinafter Request]. Copeq also provided, under seal, a copy of its new gas transmission agreement, reflecting the new term and volume.

⁵ Request at 1-2.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c).

This amendment is effective January 1, 2021. All other terms and conditions of DOE/FE Order No. 4227 shall remain in full force and effect.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 18, 2020.

Amy R. Sweeney
Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement
Office of Oil and Natural Gas