



6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. 20-153-LNG]

Vista Pacifico LNG, S.A.P.I. de C.V.; Application for Long-Term, Multi-Contract

Authorization to Export Domestically Produced Natural Gas Through Mexico to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries After Liquefaction to Liquefied Natural Gas

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice (Notice) of receipt of an application (Application), filed on November 18, 2020, by Vista Pacifico LNG, S.A.P.I de C.V. (Vista Pacifico), and supplemented on November 23, 2020. The Application requests long-term, multi-contract authorization to export domestically produced natural gas by pipeline to Mexico in a volume up to 240 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year (Bcf/yr), and to re-export 200 Bcf/yr of this natural gas as liquefied natural gas (LNG). Vista Pacifico seeks to re-export this LNG by vessel from one of two sets of proposed Topolobampo liquefaction and export terminal facilities, referred to as the VPLNG Mid-Scale Project, to be located in Topolobampo in the state of Sinaloa, Mexico. Vista Pacifico filed the Application under the Natural Gas Act (NGA). Protests, motions to intervene, notices of intervention, and written comments are invited.

DATES: Protests, motions to intervene, or notices of intervention, as applicable, requests for additional procedures, and written comments are to be filed using procedures detailed in the

Public Comment Procedures section no later than 4:30 p.m., Eastern time, **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES:

Electronic Filing by email:

fergas@hq.doe.gov

Regular Mail

U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement
Office of Fossil Energy
P.O. Box 44375
Washington, DC 20026-4375

Hand Delivery or Private Delivery Services (e.g., FedEx, UPS, etc.)

U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement
Office of Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042
1000 Independence Avenue, SW,
Washington, DC 20585

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Vista Pacifico requests long-term, multi-contract authorization to export domestically produced natural gas to Mexico for both consumption in Mexico and to convert the natural gas to LNG for re-export to: (i) any nation with which the United States has entered into a free trade agreement (FTA) requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas (FTA nations), and (ii) any other nation with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy (non-FTA nations). This Notice applies only to Vista Pacifico's proposed re-export of LNG produced from U.S.-sourced natural gas to non-FTA countries, pursuant to section 3(a) of the NGA, 15 U.S.C. 717b(a).

DOE/FE will review Vista Pacifico's request for a FTA export authorization separately pursuant to section 3(c) of the NGA, 15 U.S.C. 717b(c).

Vista Pacifico requests the authorization on its own behalf and as agent for other entities that will hold title to the natural gas or LNG at the point of export or re-export, respectively. Vista Pacifico is seeking the non-FTA authorization for a term commencing on the earlier of the date of first commercial export or seven years from the date of the requested authorization, and ending on December 31, 2050 (or the maximum time permitted by DOE/FE policy). Additional details can be found in Vista Pacifico's Application, posted on the DOE/FE website at:

<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2020/11/f80/20-153-LNG%20Mid-Scale%20Project.pdf>

DOE/FE Evaluation

In reviewing Vista Pacifico's request, DOE will consider any issues required by law or policy. DOE will consider domestic need for the natural gas, as well as any other issues determined to be appropriate, including whether the arrangement is consistent with DOE's policy of promoting competition in the marketplace by allowing commercial parties to freely negotiate their own trade arrangements. As part of this analysis, DOE will consider the study entitled, *Macroeconomic Outcomes of Market Determined Levels of U.S. LNG Exports* (2018 LNG Export Study),¹ and DOE/FE's response to public comments received on that Study.²

Additionally, DOE will consider the following environmental documents:

- *Addendum to Environmental Review Documents Concerning Exports of Natural Gas From the United States*, 79 FR 48132 (Aug. 15, 2014);³
- *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas From the United States*, 79 FR 32260 (June 4, 2014);⁴ and

¹ See NERA Economic Consulting, *Macroeconomic Outcomes of Market Determined Levels of U.S. LNG Exports* (June 7, 2018), available at:

<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2018/06/f52/Macroeconomic%20LNG%20Export%20Study%202018.pdf>.

² U.S. Dep't of Energy, *Study on Macroeconomic Outcomes of LNG Exports: Response to Comments Received on Study; Notice of Response to Comments*, 83 FR 67251 (Dec. 28, 2018).

³ The Addendum and related documents are available at: <http://energy.gov/fe/draft-addendum-environmental-review-documents-concerning-exports-natural-gas-united-states>.

⁴ The 2014 Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Report is available at: <http://energy.gov/fe/life-cycle-greenhouse-gas-perspective-exporting-liquefied-natural-gas-united-states>.

- *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas From the United States: 2019 Update*, 84 FR 49278 (Sept. 19, 2019), and DOE/FE's response to public comments received on that study.⁵

Parties that may oppose this Application should address these issues and documents in their comments and protests, as well as other issues deemed relevant to the Application.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, requires DOE to give appropriate consideration to the environmental effects of its proposed decisions. No final decision will be issued in this proceeding until DOE has met its environmental responsibilities.

Public Comment Procedures

In response to this Notice, any person may file a protest, comments, or a motion to intervene or notice of intervention, as applicable. Interested parties will be provided 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice in which to submit comments, protests, motions to intervene, or notices of intervention.

Any person wishing to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene or notice of intervention. The filing of comments or a protest with respect to the Application will not serve to make the commenter or protestant a party to the proceeding, although protests and comments received from persons who are not parties will be considered in determining the appropriate action to be taken on the Application. All protests, comments, motions to intervene, or notices of intervention must meet the requirements specified by the regulations in 10 CFR part 590.

Filings may be submitted using one of the following methods: (1) e-mailing the filing to fergas@hq.doe.gov, with FE Docket No. 20-153-LNG in the title line; (2) mailing an original and three paper copies of the filing to the Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement at the address listed in **ADDRESSES**; or (3) hand delivering an original and three paper copies of the filing to the Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement at the address listed in

⁵ U.S. Dep't of Energy, *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas From the United States: 2019 Update – Response to Comments*, 85 FR 72 (Jan. 2, 2020). The 2019 Update and related documents are available at: <https://fossil.energy.gov/app/docketindex/docket/index/21>.

ADDRESSES. All filings must include a reference to FE Docket No. 20-153-LNG. PLEASE NOTE: If submitting a filing via email, please include all related documents and attachments (e.g., exhibits) in the original email correspondence. Please do not include any active hyperlinks or password protection in any of the documents or attachments related to the filing. All electronic filings submitted to DOE must follow these guidelines to ensure that all documents are filed in a timely manner. Any hardcopy filing submitted greater in length than 50 pages must also include, at the time of the filing, a digital copy on disk of the entire submission.

A decisional record on the Application will be developed through responses to this Notice by parties, including the parties' written comments and replies thereto. Additional procedures will be used as necessary to achieve a complete understanding of the facts and issues. If an additional procedure is scheduled, notice will be provided to all parties. If no party requests additional procedures, a final Opinion and Order may be issued based on the official record, including the Application and responses filed by parties pursuant to this Notice, in accordance with 10 CFR 590.316.

The Application is available for inspection and copying in the Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement docket room, Room 3E-042, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. The docket room is open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Application and any filed protests, motions to intervene, notices of interventions, and comments will also be available electronically by going to the following DOE/FE Web address:

<https://www.energy.gov/fe/services/natural-gas-regulation>

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 2, 2020.

Amy Sweeney,

Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement,

Office of Oil and Natural Gas.

