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March 12, 2020

Amy Sweeney  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement  
Office of Fossil Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Term Extension – Proposed Policy Statement

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

On February 11, 2020,<sup>1</sup> the Department of Energy Office of Fossil Energy (“DOE/FE”) issued a Proposed Rule for public comment on extending natural gas export authorizations to non-free trade agreement countries through the year 2050. Cheniere Energy, Inc. (“Cheniere”) submits the following comments in support of the DOE/FE’s proposed Policy to extend all currently issued natural gas export authorizations to non-free trade agreement countries through the year 2050.

Cheniere owns and operates two liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) facilities in the United States, the Sabine Pass LNG Terminal in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, and the Corpus Christi Liquefaction Facility in San Patricio County, Texas. These facilities have produced, loaded, and exported more than 1,000 LNG cargoes since 2016.

Cheniere supports DOE/FE’s proposed policy statement to extend authorizations to export LNG to non-free trade agreement countries through December 31, 2050. As referenced in the Notice, Cheniere agrees with the results of the 2018 LNG Export Study. The study examined a wide range of scenarios through the year 2050 and found unambiguous macroeconomic benefits to the United States. For example, with respect to gross domestic product (“GDP”), the study concluded that “there is greater gain in GDP as the LNG export volume increases.”<sup>2</sup> The findings of the study establish an evidentiary basis for DOE/FE to make public interest determinations and export authorizations with terms through the year 2050.

<sup>1</sup> 85 Fed. Reg. 7672 (February 11, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> NERA Economic Consulting, *Macroeconomic Outcomes of Market Determined Levels of U.S. LNG Exports* at 67 (June 7, 2018) (“2018 LNG Export Study”).

Regarding DOE/FE's obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") for this proposed policy statement, Cheniere notes that the local environmental and land use impacts for each existing authorization holder's facility have already been examined and ruled upon by DOE/FE. Extending the export authorizations does not include approvals for new construction projects associated with the facilities, and, therefore, the extension of the export term would be eligible for a categorical exclusion under DOE's NEPA regulations.<sup>3</sup>

Based on the above, Cheniere submits its support of the DOE/FE's proposal extending natural gas export authorizations to non-free trade agreement countries through the year 2050.

Respectfully submitted,



Florian Pintgen  
Vice President, Commercial Operations  
Cheniere Energy, Inc.

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<sup>3</sup> See 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, Subpart D Appx. B, Exclusion B.5.7.