



Cheniere Energy, Inc.  
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August 19, 2022

Kimberly D. Bose Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: **Corpus Christi Liquefaction, LLC**  
**CCL Midscale 8-9, LLC**  
**Docket No. PF22-\_\_-000**  
**Request to Initiate Pre-Filing Review Process**

Dear Ms. Bose:

Pursuant to the requirements in 18 C.F.R. §157.21 (2014), Corpus Christi Liquefaction, LLC (“CCL”) and co-applicant CCL Midscale 8-9, LLC (“CCL Midscale 8-9”), collectively “CCL”, submit this letter to request that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission” or “FERC”) initiate the Commission’s National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”)<sup>1</sup> pre-filing review process for the proposed Corpus Christi Liquefaction Midscale Trains 8 & 9 Project (“Expansion Project” or “Project”). The proposed Project would expand the previously approved Liquefaction Project and Stage 3 Project facilities (approved in Docket Nos. CP12-507-000 and CP18-512-000, respectively), collectively “CCL Project”. The Expansion Project consists of:

- two midscale liquefaction trains;
- a refrigerant storage facility;
- a full-containment, aboveground, 220,000m<sup>3</sup> Liquefied Natural Gas (“LNG”) storage tank with loading capabilities;
- appurtenant connecting facilities and piping; and
- an increase in CCL’s previously approved ship loading rates.

Feed gas will be supplied to the Project via a combination of the Corpus Christi Pipeline System (authorized by the Commission in Docket Nos. CP12-508-000 and CP18-513-000) and a non-jurisdictional intrastate pipeline

In compliance with the Commission’s mandatory pre-filing procedures, CCL submits the following:

**1. *Project Schedule***<sup>2</sup>

Upon completion of the Commission’s mandatory 6-month pre-filing process, anticipated in February 2023, a formal application would be filed pursuant to Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (“NGA”)<sup>3</sup> which will request that the Commission issue an Order authorizing the siting, construction, operation and maintenance of the Project no later than August 2024. Upon

<sup>1</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq. (2012).

<sup>2</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(1) (2014).

<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. §§ 717c and 717f (2012).



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approval, CCL will file its project implementation plan requesting authorization to commence construction at the earliest time practicable.

The Project in-service date is targeted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of 2031. Additional schedule detail is provided below.

Key Milestone Activities	Anticipated Schedule
Commence Pre-Filing Process	August 2022
File NGA Section 3 Application	February 2023
Issuance of Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement	February 2024
Issuance of Authorization	August 2024
File Initial Implementation Plan	September 2024
Commence Project Construction	October 2024
Project In-Service	2 <sup>nd</sup> Half 2031

## 2. Zoning and Availability<sup>4</sup>

The proposed Project would be located approximately one mile southeast of the City of Gregory, Texas and will be integrated adjacent to or within the existing CCL Project. The Project area occurs within an industrial area on land previously used for aluminum production and currently utilized for CCL's existing operations. Additionally, the Project area is located in unincorporated San Patricio County and would not be subject to city or county zoning ordinances.

## 3. Pre-Filing Request<sup>5</sup>

As an LNG project, the pre-filing process is required to be utilized and a formal application will not be filed less than 180 days from the date of approval from the Commission to enter the pre-filing process.

## 4. Project Description<sup>6</sup>

The Project consists of the siting, construction, and operation of LNG facilities near Gregory, TX. Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 contain a vicinity map and plot plan of the Project, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(2).

<sup>5</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(3).

<sup>6</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(4).



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The Project will consist of (a) two midscale liquefaction trains, each capable of producing up to 1.64 million tons per annum (“MTPA”) of LNG, (b) on-site refrigerant storage, (c) a full-containment, aboveground, 220,000 m<sup>3</sup> LNG storage tank with loading capabilities, and (d) an increase in the authorized LNG loading rate. The Project will be interconnected with the existing Liquefaction Project and Stage 3 Project facilities, which will require minor modifications for purposes of interconnection and integration of the expansion facilities.

### Midscale Trains 8 & 9

CCL proposes to develop two midscale liquefaction trains that will consist of the following equipment:

- Facilities to remove carbon dioxide (“CO<sub>2</sub>”), hydrogen sulfide (“H<sub>2</sub>S”) and other sulfur compounds from the feed gas;
- Facilities to remove water and mercury from the feed gas;
- Facilities to remove heavy hydrocarbons from the feed gas;
- A thermal oxidizer for combusting waste gas;
- Electric motor driven refrigerant compressors and associated cold boxes;
- Induced draft air coolers;
- Associated fire and gas and safety systems; and
- Associated control systems and electrical infrastructure

These two midscale liquefaction trains are near replicates of those reviewed and approved by the Commission in FERC Docket No. CP18-512-000.

### Refrigerant Storage

CCL proposes to develop a refrigerant storage facility that will provide service to the seven midscale liquefaction trains authorized in Docket No. CP18-512-000 and the proposed additional two midscale liquefaction trains. Refrigerant storage will consist of one vessel for each of the four stored refrigerants (ethylene, propane, n-Butane and Iso-Pentane).

### LNG Storage Tank

CCL proposes to add a full-containment, aboveground 220,000m<sup>3</sup> LNG storage tank with loading capabilities at the existing CCL marine berths (authorized in FERC Docket No. CP12-507-000).

### Increased Ship Loading Rates

CCL currently utilizes two berths, authorized in FERC Docket No. CP12-507-00, for loading LNG onto LNG carriers (“LNGCs”). CCL’s currently authorized loading rate is 12,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. The 12,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. represents the maximum authorized loading rate, whether it be for single or dual (combined) loading. CCL proposes to increase the authorized combined loading rate to 22,500 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. as part of the Expansion Project. Increased loading rates would allow for simultaneous loading at both jetties. CCL also proposes to increase the maximum loading rate during single jetty loading from 12,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. to 14,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr.

5. *List of Federal and State Agencies in the Project Area with Relevant Permitting Requirements, and Statement Indicating Agency Awareness of Applicant’s Intention to*



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*use the Pre-Filing Process (including contact names, phone numbers, and whether agencies agree to participate in this process)<sup>7</sup>*

Attachment 3 to this letter identifies the federal and state agencies that have some form of review and/or permitting authority over the Project and further reflects contact information as well as the timeframe within which the Applicants propose to file with such agencies for permits or other authorizations, where applicable. Such authorizations will be pursued concurrent with the Commission process and submittals are expected to be provided to all relevant agencies for major federal authorization consistent with filing the final FERC application. It is anticipated that the relevant agencies will issue their respective federal authorization for the Project in accordance with the schedule set by the Commission pursuant to Section 157.9 of the Commission's regulations<sup>8</sup>. The Applicants are in the process of contacting the agencies to determine their level of interest in participating in the pre-filing process. The Railroad Commission of Texas has been designated by the Governor of Texas as the agency to consult the Commission regarding state and local safety considerations.

**6. List and Description of the Interest of Other Person/Organizations Contacted about the Project<sup>9</sup>**

In addition to continuing its long-standing public outreach initiated as part of previously authorized projects, CCL will conduct enhanced outreach specific to this Project and will contact interest groups and stakeholders per pre-filing timelines. CCL's enhanced Public Outreach Plan incorporates important additional transparency and participation measures designed to meaningfully engage environmental justice communities that may be interested in or potentially impacted by the Project, consistent with the Commission's existing Equity Action Plan. CCL's Public Outreach Plan is discussed below.

**7. Project Work Already Done<sup>10</sup>**

As noted above, the Applicants are in the process of contacting federal and state agencies about the Project (see Attachment 3). The Applicants will continue to meet with various stakeholder groups and individuals as outlined in the Public Outreach Plan discussed below.

- **Agency Consultations:** See Item Nos. 5 and 6 above and Attachment 3 for a list of agency consultations.
- **Engineering:** CCL has conducted some geotechnical investigations in the area of the proposed Project and are well advanced in the development of engineering and design plans for all components of the Project.
- **Environmental and Engineering Contractor Engagement:** To date, CCL has engaged the following contractors to help develop the Project:
  - Bechtel Corporation (liquefaction engineering);
  - Tetra Tech, Inc. (environmental);

<sup>7</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(5).

<sup>8</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.9.

<sup>9</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(6).

<sup>10</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(7).



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- Trinity Consultants (air permitting);
  - Blue Engineering, Inc (hazard analysis);
  - Fugro & TWEI (geotechnical);
  - Hoover and Keith Inc. (noise);
  - The Perryman Group (economic benefit analysis); and
  - Lanier & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc. (waterway suitability assessment)
- **Environmental Studies:** The Applicants have initiated some environmental studies, including preliminary air quality impact reviews.
  - **Public Outreach and Open House Meetings:** See Item No. 10 for the Public Outreach Plan. Additionally, an Open House Meeting will be scheduled in coordination with Commission Staff at a location in the vicinity of the Project.

#### 8. *Third-Party Consultant*<sup>11</sup>

The Applicants propose that the Commission utilize Perennial Environmental Services, LLC (“Perennial”) as the third-party consultant for the Project. Perennial was the Commission’s third-party consultant for the preparation of the NEPA documents for the CCL Project in Docket Nos. CP12-507-000 and CP18-512-000. Accordingly, Perennial is very familiar with the Project area. Given the foregoing and the similarity of the Project to the facilities addressed in the aforementioned Dockets, there would be significant efficiencies and synergy gained through use of Perennial as the Commission’s third-party consultant in this proceeding. Consequently, the Applicants propose to expand the scope of their third-party contract with Perennial to include the Project, rather than issue a request for proposals for a new third-party consultant to assist the Commission staff in this proceeding. An OCI statement from Perennial is included as Attachment 4.

#### 9. *Acknowledgement: Complete Environmental Report and Complete Application Required at the Time of Filing*<sup>12</sup>

CCL acknowledges that a complete Environmental Report and a complete application under Section 3 of the NGA must be submitted to the Commission at the time of filing.

#### 10. *Public Participation Plan Details*<sup>13</sup>

As part of its Public Outreach Plan, the Applicants will conduct the following activities:

1. Will make a formal announcement of the Project to the local, state, and federal elected officials, and notify key stakeholder groups and potentially impacted environmental justice communities;
2. Will hold meetings with local, state and federal regulatory agencies previously contacted to identify other stakeholders and to initiate pre-filing activities with each agency;

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<sup>11</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(8).

<sup>12</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(10).

<sup>13</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(11).



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3. Will continue to identify other governmental organizations, stakeholders, or tribal interests to inform them about the Project, listen to identified concerns, and address any issues that are raised by the parties represented by these organizations;
4. Will continue to identify and engage with key audiences and stakeholder groups, local associations, neighborhood groups and other non-government organizations to inform them about the Project, identify and work to understand concerns early in the permitting process, and address any issues that may be raised;
5. Have a dedicated team committed to meaningful engagement with any potentially impacted environmental justice communities so that they are provided with timely access to information on the project and have opportunities to provide feedback and identify potential issues and ways to constructively engage to mitigate potential impacts;
6. Will continue to receive and respond to feedback through public telephone information line and public e-mail inbox, which is promoted in the community;
7. Will continue to maintain a community feedback mechanism to respond to community feedback in a timely and responsive manner;
8. All Applicants are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Cheniere Energy, Inc. ("Cheniere"). Pertinent information regarding the status of the Project will be posted on the publicly available Cheniere website. The website address is [www.cheniere.com](http://www.cheniere.com) and will be populated with the information below:
  - A list of public repositories where project related information, including project maps, will be available for inspection;
  - Frequently asked questions, with responses ("FAQs");
  - Applications filed with the FERC;
  - Environmental documents issued by FERC; and
  - Other appropriate project-related information.



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Communications regarding this filing should be directed to the below representatives, which CCL requests also be placed on the official service list for this proceeding:

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Through the pre-filing process, the Applicants will endeavor to identify and resolve all of the stakeholders' potential issues and concerns, thereby providing the Commission with an application that can be moved expeditiously through the NEPA process. The Commission's early assistance in facilitating the NEPA process is greatly appreciated.

**11. *Submission to U.S. Coast Guard of Letter of Intent and Preliminary Waterway Suitability Assessment pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 127.007***<sup>14</sup>

A Letter of Recommendation ("LOR") for the Liquefaction Project was issued on March 21, 2013, authorizing an estimated 300 LNGC calls per year. Subsequently an LOR was issued on August 15, 2018, authorizing an additional 100 LNGC calls per year, bringing the total number of authorized vessel calls to 400 per year. The Project will result in an anticipated increase in vessel calls from the currently-authorized 400 vessel calls to an estimated 480 LNGC calls per year.

The regulations in 33 CFR 127.007(e) require new Preliminary and Follow-on WSAs be submitted for "owners or operators planning new construction to expand or modify marine terminal operation in an existing facility handling LNG." With respect to the WSA process, the only substantive change is the increase in LNGC calls. As such, CCL has confirmed via coordination with the USCG that the previous WSAs will be accepted as meeting the requirement for a Preliminary WSA. Therefore, with submission of a Letter of Intent ("LOI") to prepare a Follow-On WSA, CCL will have satisfied the requirements of providing a Preliminary WSA for the Project. The LOI was submitted to the USCG on August 15, 2022 (Attachment 4). A new Follow-On WSA will be submitted no later than the date that CCL submits its application to FERC, following completion of the pre-filing process.

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<sup>14</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(d)(12).



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The Applicants respectfully request that the Commission grant its request to initiate the NEPA pre-filing process by no later than August 31, 2022. Should you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (202) 442-3064.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Karri Mahmoud*

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Representatives of Corpus Christi Liquefaction, LLC and CCL Midscale 8-9, LLC

Enclosures