

Find certificate orders since 2022 where FERC weighed export demand in its public-interest analysis.

I found six certificate orders since 2022 where FERC counted export demand in its public-interest findings. All six are for pipelines that feed LNG export terminals, and in each one FERC treated a shipper's contract to move gas for export as evidence of need under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Order issued	Project (docket)	Export link	How export demand was weighed
Mar 25, 2022	Columbia Gulf, East Lateral XPress (CP20-527)	725,000 Dth/d contracted by Venture Global for Plaquemines LNG	FERC said it may rely on a pipeline's precedent agreements with an LNG export facility as evidence of need. Sierra Club argued an export pipeline falls outside section 7 and serves no public interest, and FERC rejected that.
Mar 25, 2022	Tennessee Gas, Evangeline Pass Expansion, with a Southern Natural Gas capacity lease (CP20-50 / CP20-51)	1.1 MMDth/d for Plaquemines LNG; 20-year precedent agreement with an unaffiliated shipper for 100% of capacity	FERC called the contract "significant evidence" of need. It cited DOE's export authorization and Congress's section 3 policy. The Sep 29, 2022 rehearing order reaffirmed it, citing the D.C. Circuit's <i>Oberlin</i> decision and the domestic economy and jobs.
Apr 21, 2023	Driftwood Pipeline, Line 200 and Line 300 (CP21-465)	Driftwood LNG is the foundation shipper	FERC credited precedent agreements for gas going to FTA-country exports, citing section 3's presumption that FTA exports are in the public interest. It also pointed to two other shippers and relief for capacity constraints in the Lake Charles market. Healthy Gulf and Sierra Club petitioned for review.
Jun 27, 2024	CP Express Pipeline, with CP2 LNG (CP22-22 / CP22-21)	100% of capacity contracted by the affiliated CP2 LNG terminal	FERC accepted the affiliate contract because LNG terminals have no captive customers to pass costs to. It also cited trade-balance, economic and jobs benefits. Rehearing orders on Nov 27, 2024 and May 23, 2025 kept the export reasoning, and a court petition followed in July 2025.
Oct 17, 2024	Cameron Interstate, Holbrook Expansion (CP24-1)	1.079 MMDth/d to supply feed gas to Cameron LNG	FERC granted the certificate for service "primarily" to feed the export terminal. I confirmed the project's export purpose but did not read the need discussion in full.

Order issued	Project (docket)	Export link	How export demand was weighed
Apr 21, 2023 and Aug 29, 2025	Rio Bravo Pipeline, Rio Grande LNG (CP16-455)	Feeds the Rio Grande LNG terminal	These are remand orders on a 2019 certificate that FERC reaffirmed after court review. The quoted passages say that shipping gas for export counts toward the public convenience finding.

The reasoning is consistent across the orders:

- **Statutory basis.** FERC reads section 3's presumption favoring FTA exports as supporting section 7 findings, and it says refusing to count export contracts would thwart Congress's intent.
- **Court support.** FERC cites the D.C. Circuit's *City of Oberlin* decision, plus its own NEXUS order (172 FERC ¶ 61,199).
- **Affiliated shippers.** FERC treats an LNG terminal's contract with an affiliated pipeline as valid, unlike an affiliated local distribution company.
- **Domestic benefits.** FERC lists new options for producers, a stronger domestic economy, the trade balance and jobs, which is how it connects export gas to a domestic benefit.

Limits of this list: The search only reaches indexed filings, and I used semantic searches, so I probably missed some orders. I did not search for other LNG feed-gas pipelines such as Texas LNG, Commonwealth LNG, Gator Express or Transco's Texas to Louisiana Energy Pathway. I also left out section 3 orders for the LNG terminals themselves, since you asked about certificate orders. I can extend the search, or read one of these orders in full.

Sources:

- Source: 20220325-3074_CP20-527-000.docx, Docket CP20-527-000, Accession 20220325-3074 — https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20220325-3074&optimized=false
- Source: 20220929-3104_CP20-527-001.docx, Docket CP20-527-001, Accession 20220929-3104 — https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20220929-3104&optimized=false
- Source: Ex B, Order Issuing Certificates, (20221004-5193_Ex. B, Order Issuing Certificates, CP20-50.pdf), Docket CP20-50-000, Accession 20221004-5193 — https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20221004-5193&optimized=false
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- Source: Healthy Gulf and Sierra Club, Driftwood Line 200 and Line 300 FERC Petition for Review (20230818-5158_Healthy Gulf and Sierra Club, Driftwood Line 200 and Line 300 FERC Petition for Review.pdf), Docket CP21-465-000, Accession 20230818-5158 —

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- Source: Ex A, CP2 Authorization Order, C-5 (20240904-5084_Ex. A, CP2 Authorization Order, C-5 CP22-21-000.pdf), Docket CP22-21-000, Accession 20240904-5084 —
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- Source: Exhibit C Rehearing Order (20250722-5036_Exhibit C _ Rehearing Order.pdf), Docket CP22-21-000, Accession 20250722-5036 —
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- Source: Court Stamped 25-1157 Petition for Review (20250723-5049_Court Stamped 25-1157 Petition for Review.pdf), Docket CP22-21-000, Accession 20250723-5049 —
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- Source: 20241017-3042_CP24-1-000.docx, Docket CP24-1-000, Accession 20241017-3042 —
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- Source: Ex A - Order on Remand (20251216-5101_Ex. A - Order on Remand.PDF), Docket CP24-70-000, Accession 20251216-5101 —
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- Source: Ex B - Order Granting Authorizations (20251216-5101_Ex. B - Order Granting Authorizations.pdf), Docket CP24-70-000, Accession 20251216-5101 —
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