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## **NextDecade Files FERC Application, Reaches Major Milestone for Rio Grande LNG and Rio Bravo Pipeline**

THE WOODLANDS, Texas, USA – NextDecade, LLC, a development and management company of liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects, announced today that it has filed an application with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for authorization to site, construct and operate Rio Grande LNG, a proposed 27 Mtpa LNG export facility near Brownsville, Texas and the Rio Bravo Pipeline, a 137-mile pipeline system that will provide the facility with its feed gas. This action represents the most significant milestone to date in the development of Rio Grande LNG, placing the project in an excellent position to sign offtake agreements and declare Final Investment Decision (FID) in 2017.

“After a productive pre-filing with the FERC and extensive consultation and cooperation with the reviewing agencies and local communities, we are proud to have achieved this major accomplishment,” said Kathleen Eisbrenner, NextDecade Chief Executive Officer. “Despite recent low oil and gas prices, we have found robust appetite for U.S. LNG on a long-term basis all around the world. This interest reaffirms the price competitiveness of U.S. LNG for customers looking to diversify their gas supply on a global level.”

In November 2015, NextDecade announced that it had signed non-binding agreements for 14 Mtpa of LNG with customers from across Asia and Europe. Since then, that number has grown to 26 Mtpa, demonstrating a continued desire for U.S.-produced LNG from customers around the world, and specifically, a desire for LNG from the proposed NextDecade facility.

NextDecade expects to receive authorization from the FERC by the end of the first quarter of 2017 and expects to begin exporting LNG from Rio Grande LNG by the end of 2020.

Pending FERC approval and FID, the project is expected to create between 4,000 and 6,000 construction jobs, and more than 200 well-paid permanent jobs, reflecting a potential investment of up to \$20 billion. At full build-out, the Rio Grande LNG facility will be one of the largest LNG export facilities in the world, providing customers access to clean-burning natural gas, helping countries to drastically improve their air quality, reduce emissions and procure safe and reliable exports of U.S. natural gas.

NextDecade Senior Vice President of Development & Regulatory Affairs, Shaun Davison, added, “I want to thank the entire NextDecade team as well as our valued partners at CB&I, Ecology & Environment, Norton Rose Fulbright, HGA and CH-IV, to name just a few, for their monumental efforts to further advance the Rio Grande LNG project. In addition, we’d like to extend our appreciation to the people and communities of the Rio Grande Valley for their continued support and valuable insight, helping to make Rio Grande LNG a better project. Since well before our initial application was filed with the FERC in April 2015, we have been working tirelessly to develop an industry-leading project with the utmost care and attention to safety, respecting the people, preserving the environment and caring for the Rio Grande Valley’s way of life.”

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#### **About Rio Grande LNG**

Rio Grande LNG is a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility at the Port of Brownsville. The project, proposed for a 1,000-acre industrial site on the Port of Brownsville, includes the Rio Bravo Pipeline, and is currently in the rigorous Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permitting process. Should the project move forward, it is expected to create between 4,000 and 6,000 construction jobs, more than 200 well-paid permanent jobs, and reflect a potential investment up to \$20 billion. To date, our world-class engineers, safety experts and environmental consultants have spent more than 250,000 man-hours ensuring that the project is developed with the utmost care and attention to safety, respecting the people, preserving the environment and caring for the Valley’s way of life. For more information, please visit [www.riograndelng.com](http://www.riograndelng.com).

#### **About NextDecade, LLC**

NextDecade, based in The Woodlands, Texas, is a development and management company of land-based and floating LNG projects, creating innovative opportunities in the integrated natural gas industry and providing customers access to the full LNG value chain. By bringing together people, companies and opportunities, NextDecade assembles best in class assets to deliver successful projects. Founded in 2010, NextDecade represents a team of industry leaders with extensive experience in the full LNG value chain, including successfully closing major LNG off-take deals, LNG/FLNG technology, and project management. The experienced team has developed, led, closed and operated industry-leading LNG, Gas and Electricity projects globally. For more information, please visit [www.next-decade.com](http://www.next-decade.com).

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