

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION

[6450-01]

MIDWESTERN GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-17-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NOS. G-18314, ) CP66-121, CP70-25 AND ) CP77-458)
GREAT LAKES GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY	) ERA DOCKET NOS. 79-18-NG, 79-02-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NOS. CP66-110 <u>et al.</u> , ) CP70-19 <u>et al.</u> , CP70-100 AND ) CP71-222, <u>et al.</u> )
MONTANA POWER COMPANY	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-19-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NO. CP74-187)
MICHIGAN WISCONSIN PIPE LINE COMPANY	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-20-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NO. CP70-22)
INTER-CITY MINNESOTA PIPELINES LTD., INC.	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-21-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NO. CP70-289)
NORTHWEST PIPELINE CORP.	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-22-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NOS. CP75-341 ) AND CP75-342)

FINAL ORDER AUTHORIZING THE  
IMPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS AT THE  
NEWLY ESTABLISHED CANADIAN BORDER PRICE

Appended to the August 10, 1979, Notice was ERA's Interim Order Authorizing the Importation of Natural Gas at the Newly Established Canadian Border Price (44 FR 48324) (Interim Order). In the Notice, ERA requested comments and petitions for intervention in regard to the applications to be submitted by August 20, 1979.

On August 23, 1979, Northern States Power Company (Minnesota) (NSP Minn), and Northern States Power Company (Wisconsin) (NSP Wisc) filed a joint petition to intervene in the matter of Midwestern Gas Transmission Company, ERA Docket No. 79-17-NG. The joint petition expressed support for the application and did not request a hearing. No other petitions, comments or requests for hearing were received.

Applicants assert that although they are deeply concerned about the continuous, substantial increases in the export price of Canadian gas, cessation of delivery of all or any part of the existing flow of Canadian gas would critically jeopardize the customers served by gas distribution utilities totally or substantially dependent upon imported Canadian gas.

#### Conclusion

Based on the information filed with the applications, ERA determined preliminarily, in its Interim Order, with final approval subject to further review and comments, that all previous authorizations to import natural gas from Canada issued to Midwestern, Great Lakes, Northwest Pipeline, Montana, Inter-City, and Michigan Wisconsin should be amended to permit Applicants to continue to import natural gas at currently authorized volumes at a price of \$2.80 per MMBtu (\$2.50 per MMBtu under License GL-29), effective August 11, 1979.

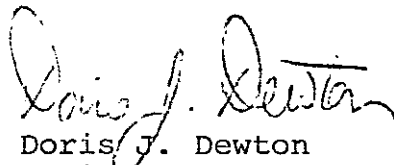
ERA continues to find merit in Applicants' assertions and no comments were received in opposition to ERA's interim order. In addition, U. S. Government policies have emphasized the significant role natural gas can play in reducing U.S. reliance on oil imports. The approval of these petitions will ensure the continued availability of natural gas for displacement of fuel oils and will contribute to the overall success of DOE's national program of encouraging end-users with an alternate fuel capability to switch from fuel oils to natural gas.

Accordingly, ERA finds that the increase in the U.S.A.-Canadian Border price for natural gas from \$2.30 per MMBtu to \$2.80 per MMBtu will not be inconsistent with the public interest.

This amendment to the authorizations to purchase natural gas imported from Canada affects only the price to be paid, and in no manner changes any other condition imposed in the respective existing authorizations to import issued to each Applicant.

NSP Minn. and NSP Wisc. are hereby permitted to intervene in ERA Docket No. 79-17-NG, provided, however that their participation as interveners shall be limited to matters affecting the rights and interests specifically set forth in the petition to intervene; and provided, further, that the admission of such interveners shall not be construed as recognition that petitioners might be aggrieved because of any order or orders issued by DOE/ERA in this proceeding.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 5, 1979.



Doris J. Dewton  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Petroleum Operations  
Economic Regulatory Administration