UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Fossil Energy
Washington, D.C.

FE Docket No. EA-273

Rainy River Energy Corporation

Order Authorizing Electricity Exports to Canada

Order No. EA-273

March 24, 2003

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I. BACKGROUND

Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. §824a(e)).

On November 25, 2002, Rainy River Energy Corporation (Rainy River) applied to the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for authorization to transmit electric energy to Canada as a power marketer. Rainy River, a Minnesota corporation having its principal place of business in Duluth, Minnesota, is engaged in the marketing of electric power at wholesale. Two entities affiliated with Rainy River currently hold export authorizations: Minnesota Power, under Docket No. EA-196, and Split Rock Energy, under Docket No. EA-225. Rainy River's authorization to export power will be on its own behalf.

Rainy River proposes to purchase surplus electric energy from electric utilities and other suppliers within the United States and to export this energy on its own behalf to Canada. The energy to be exported would be delivered to Canada over the international electric transmission facilities presently owned by the following:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Bonneville Power Administration
Citizens Utilities Company
Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative
International Transmission Company
Joint Owners of the Highgate Project
Long Sault, Inc.
Maine Electric Power Company
Maine Public Service Company
Minnesota Power, Inc.
Minnkota Power Cooperative
New York Power Authority
Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.
Northern States Power Co.
Vermont Electric Transmission Co.

Notice of the Rainy River export application was placed in the *Federal Register* on December 26, 2002, (67 FR 78796) requesting that comments, protests, and petitions to intervene be submitted to the DOE by January 27, 2003. None were received.

II. DISCUSSION and ANALYSIS

The authority requested of DOE by Rainy River is a necessary condition for exporting under section 202(e) of the FPA. Before an electricity export authorization is granted, DOE must evaluate the impact of the export on the reliability of the U.S. electric system by determining whether the export will impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the U.S. and whether it will impede or tend to impede the coordinated use of regional transmission facilities.

Prior to the restructuring of the electric power industry, the only entities able to export were those electric utilities that were contiguous with the U.S. international border that owned international transmission facilities. The exported energy originated from within the exporter's system and standard transmission studies could be performed to determine the impact of the export on regional electric systems.

However, deregulation of wholesale power markets and the introduction of open-access transmission expanded the geographic scope of entities capable of exporting electric energy. Today, at the time of application, the typical exporter cannot identify the source of the exported energy or the electric systems that might be called upon to provide transmission service to the border. Consequently, traditional transmission studies cannot be used to determine the reliability impacts of the export on regional electric systems.

In evaluating reliability impacts of export proposals, DOE has always used a variety of methodologies and information, including established industry guidelines, operating procedures and/or infrastructure, as well as traditional technical studies where available and appropriate. When determining reliability impacts for exports by power marketers or other entities operating in a similar manner, it is convenient to separate the export transaction into two parts: (1) moving the export from the source to a border system that owns the international transmission connection; and, (2) moving the export through that border system and across the border.

In order to deliver the export from the source to a border system, Rainy River must make the necessary commercial arrangements and obtain sufficient transmission capacity to wheel the exported energy to the border system. In doing so, Rainy River would use domestic transmission facilities for which open-access tariffs have been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Rainy River also must make reservations for transmission service in accordance with the FERC Open-Access Same-time Information System (OASIS), and must schedule delivery of the export with the appropriate Independent System Operator(s) (ISO) and/or control areas. The posting of transmission capacity on OASIS indicates that transmission capacity is available. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the ISO and/or control area to schedule the delivery of the export consistent with established reliability criteria. During each step of the process of obtaining transmission service, the owners and/or operators of the transmission facilities will evaluate the reliability of the system and schedule the movement of the export only if it would not violate established operating reliability standards. Therefore, DOE has determined that the existing industry procedures for obtaining transmission capacity on the domestic transmission system provide adequate assurances that an export will not impair the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

In determining the reliability impacts of moving the export through a border system and across the border, DOE relies on the traditional technical studies that were performed in support of electricity export authorizations issued to that border system. Allowing these technical studies to suffice in this docket is sound and, thus, DOE need not perform additional reliability

assessments here, provided the maximum rate of transmission for all exports through a border system does not exceed the authorized limit of the system.

However, this approach is applicable only for exports over international transmission facilities for which export authorizations have been issued and for which reliability studies have been performed. Several of the international transmission lines over which Rainy River seeks export authority are owned and operated by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

As an instrumentality of the State of New York, NYPA is non-jurisdictional to section 202(e) of the FPA. Consequently, DOE never issued NYPA an export authorization or prepared a reliability assessment which could have been used to limit the instantaneous rate of transmission (power) for exports over NYPA's international transmission lines. Thus, in lieu of that, DOE is utilizing the information contained in the report entitled, "Load & Capacity Data, 2001 Report of the Member Electric Systems of the New York Power Pool."[1] This report is prepared and filed with the New York Public Service Commission pursuant to section 6-106 of the Energy Law of New York State. It will be made part of the record in this proceeding and included in the public docket. Section IX of this report lists the transmission transfer capabilities between New York State and surrounding electric systems, including Hydro-Quebec and Ontario Hydro. Since all of the major transmission interconnections between New York State and Ontario, Canada, are operated in parallel, it is appropriate to consider a single export power limit for this "electrically logical" grouping of lines. Accordingly, the transfer capability between New York State and Ontario (as identified in Section IX of the above report) has been used to limit the instantaneous transmission rate for exports by Rainy River over all international transmission lines connecting New York State with Ontario (subparagraph B(13)(a) of this Order). A separate limit (subparagraph B(12) of this Order) has been assigned for exports over NYPA's 765-kV tie with Hydro-Quebec because of the asynchronous nature of that interconnection.

As a Federal agency, BPA also is non-jurisdictional to section 202(e) of the FPA. Consequently, BPA was never issued an export authorization which DOE could have used to set power limits for exports by Rainy River over BPA's international transmission ties with Canada. However, DOE has obtained information from BPA on the transmission limits assigned to the two 500-kV and the two 230-kV lines connecting the BPA system with British Columbia Hydro and West Kootenay Power for operation in the export mode. This information has been made a part of this Docket. It has been used by DOE in setting limits on the power to be exported by Rainy River over the BPA international transmission lines (subparagraph B(14) of this Order).

An export authorization issued under section 202(e) does not impose on transmitting utilities a requirement to provide service. However, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning

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[1] This report increases the New York-Ontario transfer limit to 1650 MW from the 550-MW limit contained in the 1995 version of the report. On September 26, 2002, DOE authorized the New York Independent System Operator to export at this higher transfer limit in Order EA-227-A. New York Power Pool no longer exists and all of the operational responsibilities of the pool are now being performed by the New York Independent System Operator.

border facilities to provide access across the border in accordance with the principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination contained in the FPA and articulated in FERC Order No. 888 (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities; FERC; Stats. & Regs. ¶31,036 (1996)), as amended. The actual rates, terms and conditions of transmission service shall be consistent with the non-discrimination principles of the FPA and the transmitting utility's Open- Access Transmission Tariff on file with the FERC.

All recipients of export authorizations, including owners of border facilities for which Presidential permits have been issued, are required by their export authorization to conduct operations in accordance with the principles of the FPA and pertinent rules, regulations and orders, which include the comparable open access provisions of FERC Order No. 888, as amended. Cross-border electric trade ought to be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. (See Enron Power Marketing, Inc., 77 FERC ¶61,013 (1996)). Thus, DOE expects owners of border facilities to comply with the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to the domestic interstate transmission of electricity.

Rainy River requested and is being authorized to export electricity over the transmission facilities of some border utilities whose export authorizations still contain limits on the total amount of energy that can be exported by these utilities. These energy limits no longer have any direct relevance to the way DOE addresses electric reliability. DOE expects to initiate a future proceeding regarding the removal of these limits.

However, DOE recognizes the potential inequity of retaining energy limits on certain exporters while currently authorizing marketers, or other entities operating in a similar manner, to export unlimited amounts of energy. Until the above referenced proceeding is completed, exports by power marketers or other entities operating in a similar manner will be constrained by the same energy limits, except exports by such entities will not reduce or be "charged against" those energy limits contained in the original export authorization.

III. FINDING

DOE has assessed the impact that the proposed export would have on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. Based on the above discussion and analysis, DOE has determined that the export of electric energy to Canada by Rainy River, as ordered below, would not impair the sufficiency of electric power supply within the United States and would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities within the meaning of section 202(e) of the FPA.

DOE also has determined that this action is among those classes of actions not normally requiring preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement and,

therefore, is eligible for categorical exclusion under Appendix B to Subpart D, paragraph B4.2 of the revised DOE Regulations implementing NEPA. Specifically, this categorical exclusion is provided for transmission of electric energy using existing transmission systems. Documentation of the use of this categorical exclusion has been placed in this Docket.

IV. ORDER

Based on the above finding, it is hereby ordered that Rainy River is authorized to export electric energy to Canada under the following terms and conditions:

(A) The electric energy exported by Rainy River pursuant to this Order may be delivered to Canada only over the following international transmission facilities for which assessments of the transmission limits for operation in the export mode have been made:

Present Owner	Location	Voltage	Presidential Permit No.[2]
Basin Electric Power Cooperative	Tioga, ND	230-kV	PP-64
BPA	Blaine, WA	2-500 kV	PP-10
	Nelway, WA	230-kV	PP-36
	Nelway, WA	230-kV	PP-46
Citizens Utilities Company	Derby Line, VT	120-kV	PP-66
Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative	Calais, ME	69-kV	PP-32
International Transmission Company	Detroit, MI	230-kV	PP-230
	Marysville, MI	230-kV	PP-230
	St. Clair, MI	230-kV	PP-230
	St. Clair, MI	345-kV	PP-230
Joint Owners of Highgate Project	Highgate, VT	120-kV	PP-82
Long Sault, Inc.	Massena, NY	2-115-kV	PP-24

[2] These Presidential permit numbers refer to the generic DOE permit number and are intended to include any subsequent amendments to the permit authorizing the facility.

Maine Electric Power Company	Houlton, ME	345-kV	PP-43
Maine Public Service Company	Limestone, ME	69-kV	PP-12
	Fort Fairfield, ME	69-kV	PP-12
	Aroostock County, ME	138-kV	PP-29
	Madawaska, ME	2-69-kV	PP-29
Minnesota Power, Inc.	International Falls, MN	115-kV	PP-78
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.	Roseau County, MN	230-kV	PP-61
New York Power Authority	Massena, NY	765-kV	PP-56
	Massena, NY	2-230-kV	PP-25
	Niagara Falls, NY	2-345-kV	PP-74
	Devils Hole, NY	230-kV	PP-30
Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.	Devils Hole, NY	230-kV	PP-190
Northern States Power Company	Red River, ND	230-kV	PP-45
	Roseau County, MN	500-kV	PP-63
Vermont Electric Transmission Co.	Norton, VT	±450-kV DC	PP-76

(B) Exports authorized herein shall not cause a violation of the terms and conditions contained in existing electricity export authorizations associated with the international transmission facilities identified in paragraph (A) above. Specifically:

(1) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential permit PP-64 (issued to Basin Electric Power Coop.) To exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 150 MW. The gross amount of energy which Rainy River may export over the PP-64 facilities shall not exceed 900,000 megawatt-hours (MWH) during any consecutive 12-month period.

(2) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-66 (issued to Citizens Utilities Company) to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 50 megawatts (MW). The gross amount of energy which Rainy River may export over the PP-66 facilities shall not exceed 50,000 MWh annually.

(3) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on a combination of the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-230 (issued to International Transmission Company) to exceed a coincident, instantaneous transmission rate of 2.2 billion volt-amperes (2,200 MVA).

(4) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-32 (issued to Eastern Maine Electric Coop.) to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 15 MW. The gross amount of energy which Rainy River may export over the PP-32 facilities shall not exceed 7,500 MWh annually.

(5) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-82 (issued to the Joint Owners of the Highgate Project) to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 200 MW nor cause a violation of the following security constrained export limits:

Vermont Total Load (MW)	Security Constrained Maximum Export (MW)
1000	0
900	40
800	90
700	125
600	150
500	170

(6) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-43 (issued to Maine Electric Power Company) to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 500 MW.

(7) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the combination of facilities authorized by Presidential Permits PP-12 and PP-29 (issued to Maine Public Service Company) to exceed a coincident, instantaneous transmission rate of 40.8 MW. The gross amount of energy which Rainy River may export over a combination of the PP-12 and PP-29 facilities shall not exceed 40,000 MWh annually.

(8) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-78-1 (issued to Minnesota Power) to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 100 MW. Exports by Rainy River may cause total exports on the PP-78-1 facilities to exceed 100 MW only when total exports between the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP) and Manitoba Hydro are below maximum transfer limits and/or whenever operating conditions within the MAPP system permit exports on the PP-78-1 facilities above the 100-MW level without violating

established MAPP reliability criteria. However, under no circumstances shall exports by Rainy River cause total exports on the PP-78-1 facilities to exceed 150 MW.

(9) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-61 (issued to Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.) to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 350 MW. The gross amount of energy which Rainy River may export over the PP-61 facilities shall not exceed 3,000,000 MWh annually.

(10) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-63-4 (issued to Northern States Power) to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 500 MW.

(11) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause a violation of the following conditions as they apply to exports over the ± 450-kV direct current transmission line authorized by Presidential Permit PP-76 (issued to the Vermont Electric Transmission Company), as amended by PP-76A:

Exports Through	NEPOOL Load Condition	Export Limit
Comerford converter	Summer, Heavy	650 MW
Comerford converter	Winter, Heavy	660 MW
Comerford converter	Summer, Light	690 MW
Comerford converter	Winter, Light	690 MW
Comerford & Sandy Pond converters	All	2,000 MW

(12) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-56 (issued to NYPA) to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 1000 MW.

(13) Exports by Rainy River made pursuant to this Order shall not cause: (a) the total exports on the facilities authorized by Presidential Permits PP-25, PP-30, PP-74 and PP-190 (issued to NYPA and Niagara Mohawk) to exceed a combined instantaneous transmission rate of 1650 MW; and (b) the total exports on the 115-kV facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-24 (issued to Long Sault, Inc.) to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 100 MW. In addition, the gross amount of energy which Rainy River may export over the PP-24 facilities shall not exceed 300,000 MWh annually.

(14) Exports by Rainy River pursuant to this Order shall not cause total exports on the two 500-kV lines authorized by Presidential Permit PP-10, the 230-kV line authorized by Presidential Permit PP-36, and the 230 kV line authorized by Presidential Permit PP-46 (issued to BPA) to exceed the following limits:

Condition	PP-36 & PP-46 Limit	PP-10 Limit	Total Export Limit
All lines in service	400 MW	1500 MW	1900 MW
1-500 kV line out	400 MW	300 MW	700 MW
2-500 kV lines out	400 MW	0 MW	400 MW
1-230 kV line out	400 MW	1500 MW	1900 MW
2-230 kV lines out	0 MW	1500 MW	1500 MW

(C) Changes by DOE to the export limits in other orders shall result in a concomitant change to the export limits contained in paragraph (B) of this Order. Changes to the export limits contained in subparagraphs B(12), B(13), and B(14) will be made by DOE after submission of appropriate information demonstrating a change in the transmission transfer capability between the electric systems in New York State and Ontario and New York State and Quebec, and between BPA and BC Hydro, or BPA and West Kootenay Power. Notice of these changes will be provided to Rainy River.

(D) In scheduling the delivery of electricity exports to Canada, Rainy River shall comply with all reliability criteria, standards, and guides of the North American Electric Reliability Council, Regional Councils, or independent system operators, as appropriate, on such terms as expressed therein, and as such criteria, standards, and guides may be amended from time to time.

(E) Rainy River shall conduct all operations pursuant to the authorization hereby granted in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Power Act and pertinent rules, regulations, and orders adopted or issued thereunder, including the comparable open access provisions of FERC Order No. 888, as amended.

(F) The authorization herein granted may be modified from time to time or terminated by further order of the DOE. In no event shall such authorization to export over a particular transmission facility identified in paragraph (A) extend beyond the date of termination of the Presidential permit authorizing such facility.

(G) This authorization shall be without prejudice to the authority of any State or State regulatory commission for the exercise of any lawful authority vested in such State or State regulatory commission.

(H) Rainy River shall make and preserve full and complete records with respect to the electric energy exported to Canada. Rainy River shall furnish quarterly reports to the DOE, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, detailing for each month of the previous quarter: (1) the gross amount of electricity delivered, in kilowatt hours; (2) the consideration received for such energy; and (3) the maximum hourly rate of transmission, in kilowatts. Quarterly reports must be filed regardless of current activity and whether or not deliveries of electric energy have been made. If no transactions have been made, a one-sentence report indicating "no activity" for the previous quarter is sufficient.

Reports shall be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, FE-27, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585-0305. Properly identified quarterly reports will also be accepted via facsimile at (202) 287-5736 to meet time requirements, but original copies should still be filed at the above address.

(I) In accordance with 10 C.F.R. §205.305, this authorization is not transferable or assignable, except in the event of the involuntary transfer of this authority by operation of law. Provided written notice of the involuntary transfer is given DOE within 30 days, this authorization shall continue in effect temporarily. This continuance also is contingent on the filing of an application for permanent authorization within 60 days of the involuntary transfer; the authorization shall then remain effective until a decision is made on the new application. In the event of a proposed voluntary transfer of this authority to export electricity, the transferee and the transferor shall file jointly an application for a new export authorization, together with a statement of reasons for the transfer.

(J) Exports authorized herein shall be reduced or suspended, as appropriate, whenever a continuation of those exports would impair or tend to impair the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

(K) This authorization shall be effective for a period of two years from the date of this Order. Application for renewal of this authorization may be filed within six months prior to expiration of this authorization.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on March 24, 2003.

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