

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION

MIDWESTERN GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-23-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NOS. G-18314, ) CP66-121, CP70-25 AND ) CP77-458)
GREAT LAKES GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-25-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> )
MICHIGAN WISCONSIN PIPE LINE COMPANY	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-26-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NO. CP70-22)
MONTANA POWER COMPANY	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-27-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NO. CP74-187)
NORTHWEST PIPELINE CORP.	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-28-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NOS. CP75-341 ) AND CP75-342)
INTER-CITY MINNESOTA PIPELINES LTD., INC.	) ERA DOCKET NO. 79-29-NG ) (FERC DOCKET NO. CP70-289)

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

A. Background

The Canadian National Energy Board (NEB) has, since 1974, periodically conducted review of the price of natural gas exported from Canada and has made recommendations to the Canadian government for changes in that price. The last increase in 1979, effective August 11, 1979, was granted to Applicants by ERA's Interim Order Authorizing the Importation of Natural Gas at the Newly Established Canadian Border Price issued August 10, 1979, and followed by ERA's Final Order Authorizing the Importation of Natural Gas at the Newly Established Canadian Border Price issued October 5, 1979.

Taking into account the increase of the actual official ceiling prices for imported crude oil as established by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Canadian Government issued on October 4, 1979, an order increasing, effective November 3, 1979, the established Canadian border export price of \$2.80 per MMBtu (\$2.61 per gigajoule) to \$3.45 per MMBtu (\$3.22 per gigajoule) under all licenses except GL-29 of Inter-City Minnesota Pipelines Ltd., Inc. The export price for gas exported under License GL-29 is increased to \$3.15 per MMBtu.

B. Discussion

After receiving notification of the Canadian Privy Council Order, some importers of natural gas affected by the price change filed requests for amendments of existing import authorizations to reflect the new border price. Because the Privy Council Order provided only one month's notice prior to implementation of the new price, the Applicants were precluded from making application to ERA 30 days before the implementation, as is required under the procedures established in 18 CFR, Part 153.

Upon consideration of the Applicants' pleadings, ERA believes that the public interest is best served by permitting the continued importation of natural gas from Canada under existing authorizations, at the increased price. Cessation of delivery of all or any part of the existing flow of Canadian gas would jeopardize those customers served by gas distribution utilities totally or substantially dependent upon imported Canadian gas.

C. Findings

Based on the information filed with the applications, ERA finds:

1. Previous authorizations issued to Midwestern, Great Lakes, Northwest Pipeline, Montana, Inter-City, and Michigan-Wisconsin should temporarily be amended to permit Applicants to continue to import natural gas from Canada at currently

authorized volumes at a price of \$3.45 (\$3.15 under License GL-29) effective November 3, 1979, as hereinafter ordered and conditioned, as the continued importation has been shown to be not inconsistent with the public interest.

2. ERA is withholding final consideration of these applications pending the receipt of comments and petitions for intervention following the close of the period for receiving comments and interventions pursuant to the notice of applications published today in the Federal Register.

Therefore, ERA orders:

Pursuant to the authority under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, import authorizations previously granted to:

Midwestern Gas Transmission Company	ERA <u>79-17-NG</u>
Great Lakes Gas Transmission Company	ERA 79-18-NG
Northwest Pipeline Corp.	ERA 79-22-NG
Montana Power Company	ERA 79-19-NG
Michigan Wisconsin Pipe Line Company	ERA 79-20-NG
Inter-City Minnesota Pipelines Ltd., Inc., Under Licenses GL-28 and GL-30	ERA 79-21-NG

for the importation of natural gas from Canada are hereby temporarily amended to permit the import of previously authorized volumes of natural gas from Canada at a price of \$3.45 per MMBtu (\$3.22 per gigajoule) effective November 3, 1979, pending final findings of fact. The new border price for gas to be imported under license GL-29 of Inter-City Minnesota Pipelines Ltd., Inc., is \$3.15 effective November 3, 1979.

This interim authority 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.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on November 2, 1979.



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