

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

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WISCONSIN POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY ) FE DOCKET NO. 89-19-NG  
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INTERIM ORDER EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION  
TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE OPINION AND ORDER NO. 362-A

SEPTEMBER 29, 1992

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I. BACKGROUND

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On September 21, 1992, as supplemented on September 29, 1992, Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE), under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and DOE Delegation Order Nos. 0204-111 and 0204-127, requesting authorization to import from Canada up to 4,294 Mcf of natural gas per day on a firm basis and up to 6,450 Mcf per day on an interruptible basis.<sup>1/</sup> The term of the requested

authorization would begin on the date of first delivery and continue through October 31, 1997. WPL also requests in its application blanket authorization to import from Canada up to 100,000 Mcf per day of spot market gas, on its own behalf or as an agent for others, over a period of two years beginning on the date of first delivery after October 1, 1992.

WPL is currently authorized in DOE/FE Opinion and Order No. 362 (Order No. 362) to import up to 10,718 Mcf per day of Canadian gas from TransCanada PipeLines Limited through October 31, 1992, and up to 100,000 Mcf per day of spot market gas through September 30, 1992.<sup>2/</sup> Because Order No. 362 is about to expire, WPL requests emergency interim authority to continue importing gas under its existing authorization until DOE issues a final decision on its application in Docket No. 92-121-NG, to

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1/ See FE Docket No. 92-121-NG.

2/ 1 FE 70,278 (December 18, 1989).

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ensure sufficient gas supplies for its customers during the 1992-1993 winter heating season.

## II. DECISION

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DOE has considered WPL's request for interim authority in light of our responsibility under section 3 of the NGA, and the circumstances confronted by WPL. It is apparent that DOE is faced with a request that can be honored only by an immediate action. We believe WPL's application states reasons sufficient to justify an extension of WPL's existing authorization for a limited duration. Because this extension will be granted according to the identical terms of its current authorization in Order No. 362, DOE can rely on its earlier determination and concludes that the import arrangement is competitive. The interim authorization will ensure adequate gas volumes for WPL's customers during the upcoming heating season while WPL's pending application is being considered by DOE.

In view of the above considerations and the facts asserted by the applicant, temporarily extending WPL's import authorization in Order No. 362 will not be inconsistent with the public interest.<sup>3/</sup>

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<sup>3/</sup> Because the import of gas will use existing facilities, DOE has determined that granting this authorization is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); therefore, neither an environmental impact statement nor an environmental assessment is

required. See 40 C.F.R. 1508.4 and 57 F.R. 15122 (April 24,  
1992).

ORDER

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For the reasons set forth above, pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, it is ordered that:

A. The import authorities previously granted to Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL) by DOE/FE Opinion and Order No. 362 (Order No. 362), are hereby extended from the date of this order until a final decision is issued on WPL's application filed in FE Docket No. 92-121-NG.

B. All terms and conditions in Order No. 362 shall continue to apply to the imports authorized herein.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on September 29, 1992.

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Charles F. Vacek  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Fuels Programs  
Office of Fossil Energy