

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

MERIDIAN MARKETING & TRANSMISSION CORP.) FE DOCKET NO. 93-20-NG
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ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION
TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 796

APRIL 30, 1993

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On February 12, 1993, as amended March 25, 1993, Meridian Marketing & Transmission Corp. (Meridian) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy of the Department of Energy (DOE), under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA),1/

requesting blanket authorization to import up to 36 Bcf of natural gas per year from Canada over a two-year term beginning on the date of first delivery. Meridian, a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a marketer of natural gas. Meridian would import this gas under short-term and spot market transactions, either on its own behalf or as the agent for others. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by Meridian has been evaluated to determine if the proposed imports meet the public interest requirement of section 3 of the NGA, as amended by section 201 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-486). Under section 3(c), the importation of natural gas from a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas is deemed to be consistent with the public interest and must be granted without modification or delay. The authorization sought by Meridian to import natural gas from Canada, a nation with which a free trade agreement is in effect, meets the section 3(c) criterion and, therefore, is consistent with the public interest. This blanket order

1/ 15 U.S.C. 717b.

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authorizes transactions under contracts with terms of no longer than two years.

ORDER

Pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, it is ordered that:

A. Meridian Marketing & Transmission Corp. (Meridian) is authorized to import, at any point on the international border, a total of up to 72 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term beginning on the date of first delivery.

B. Within two weeks after deliveries begin, Meridian shall notify the Office of Fuels Programs, Fossil Energy, Room 3F-056, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, in writing of the date that the first import of natural gas authorized in Ordering Paragraph A above occurred.

C. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, Meridian shall file with the Office of Fuels Programs, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, quarterly reports indicating whether imports of natural gas have been made. If no imports have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports have occurred, Meridian must report total monthly volumes in Mcf and the average purchase price per MMBtu at the international border. The reports shall also provide the details of each import transaction, including: (1) the name of the seller(s); (2) the name of the purchaser(s); (3) the estimated or actual duration of the agreement(s); (4) the name of the U.S.

transporter(s); (5) the point(s) of entry; (6) the geographic market(s) served; (7) whether the sales are being made on an interruptible or firm basis; and, if applicable, (8) the per unit (MMBtu) demand/commodity/reservation charge breakdown of the contract price.

D. The first quarterly report required by Paragraph C of this Order is due not later than July 30, 1993, and should cover the period from the date of this order until the end of the second calendar quarter, June 30, 1993.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on April 30, 1993.

Anthony J. Como
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fuels Programs
Office of Fossil Energy