

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

_____)
MERIDIAN OIL TRANSPORTATION INC.) FE DOCKET NO. 94-39-NG
_____)

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION
TO EXPORT NATURAL GAS, INCLUDING
LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS, TO MEXICO

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 951

MAY 17, 1994

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST _____

On April 21, 1994, Meridian Oil Transportation Inc. (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/} and DOE Delegation Order Nos. 0204-111 and 0204-127, requesting blanket authorization to export natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), to Mexico. Up to 54 Bcf of domestic gas would be exported under short-term and spot market transactions over a two-year period beginning on June 1, 1994.^{2/} Meridian, a Texas corporation, with its principal place of business in Houston, Texas, is engaged in the business of purchasing, reselling, and transporting natural gas to the Texas intrastate market. 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 export arrangement meets 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 export of natural gas to 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

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

2. Meridians' existing blanket export authorization granted by DOE/FE Opinion and Order No. 594 dated March 16, 1992 (1 FE

70,553) expires May 31, 1994.

modification or delay. The authorization sought by Meridian to export natural gas to Mexico, 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 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 Oil Transportation Inc. (Meridian) is authorized to export, at any point on the U.S.-Mexico border, up to 54 Bcf of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), to Mexico over a period of two years beginning on the date of the first delivery after May 31, 1994.

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

C. With respect to the natural gas and LNG exports authorized by this Order, Meridian shall file with the Office of Fuels Programs, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, quarterly reports indicating whether exports of natural gas and/or LNG have been made. Quarterly reports must be filed whether or not initial deliveries have begun. If no exports have

been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If exports have occurred, Meridian must report monthly total volumes in Mcf and the average purchase price per MMBtu at the international border. The reports shall also provide the details of each export transaction, including:

- (1) the name of the seller;
- (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 exit;
- (6) the geographic market(s) served; and
- (7) whether the sales are being made on an interruptible or firm basis.

D. The first quarterly report required by Ordering Paragraph C of this Order is due not later than July 30, 1994, and should cover the period from June 1, 1994, until the end of the second calendar quarter, June 30, 1994.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on May 17, 1994.

Anthony J. Como
Director
Office of Coal & Electricity
Office of Fuels Programs
Office of Fossil Energy