

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

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SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION ) FE DOCKET NO. 94-45-NG  
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ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO  
IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 955

JUNE 8, 1994

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST \_\_\_\_\_

On May 17, 1994, Southwest Gas Corporation (Southwest) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy of the Department of Energy (DOE), under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)<sup>1/</sup> and DOE Delegation Order Nos. 0204-111 and 0204-127, requesting blanket authorization to import up to 12 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term beginning on the date of first delivery. Southwest, a California corporation with its principal place of business in Las Vegas, Nevada, is a public utility. Southwest is engaged in the intrastate transmission, distribution, and sale of natural gas in certain portions of the States of California, Arizona and Nevada. Southwest anticipates importing the gas on its own behalf through short-term or spot transactions to sell to its local distribution customers. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING \_\_\_\_\_

The application filed by Southwest has been evaluated to determine if the proposed import 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), an import 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

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

modification or delay. The authorization sought by Southwest 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 authorizes transactions under contracts with terms of no longer than two years.

ORDER

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

A. Southwest Gas Corporation (Southwest) is authorized to import up to 12 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term beginning on the date of the first delivery. This natural gas may be imported at any point on the border of the United States and Canada.

B. Within two weeks after deliveries begin, Southwest 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 import of natural gas authorized in Ordering Paragraph A above occurred.

C. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, Southwest 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. Quarterly reports must be filed whether or not initial deliveries have begun. If no imports have been made, a

report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports have occurred, Southwest 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 estimated or actual duration of the agreement(s); (3) the point(s) of entry; (4) the name of the United States transporter(s); (5) the geographic market(s) served; (6) whether the sales are being made on an interruptible or firm basis; and, if applicable, (7) the per unit (MMBtu) demand/commodity/reservation charge breakdown of the contract price.

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 the date of this Order until the end of the second calendar quarter, June 30, 1994.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on June 8, 1994.

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