

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

_____)
MURPHY GAS GATHERING COMPANY) FE DOCKET NO. 96-12-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION
TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1154

MARCH 27, 1996

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST _____

On March 14, 1996, Murphy Gas Gathering Company (Murphy Gas) 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 import up to 75 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term beginning on December 1, 1995.^{2/} Murphy Gas, an Arkansas corporation with its principal place of business in El Dorado, Arkansas, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Murphy Oil USA, Inc. Murphy Gas requests authority to import this gas under spot and short-term sales arrangements, on its own behalf as well as on behalf of others. The specific terms of each import, including price and volume, would be negotiated at arms length in response to market conditions. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING _____

The application filed by Murphy Gas 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), 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

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

2. Murphy Gas's blanket import authorization granted by DOE/FE Opinion and Order No. 878, dated November 18, 1993, (1 FE 70,888) expired November 30, 1995.

consistent with the public interest and must be granted without modification or delay. The authorization sought by Murphy Gas 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

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

A. Murphy Gas Gathering Company (Murphy Gas) is authorized to import from Canada, at any point on the international border, up to 75 Bcf of natural gas over the two-year term, effective December 1, 1995, and ending November 30, 1997.

B. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, Murphy Gas 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 occur, Murphy Gas 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 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.

C. The first quarterly report required by Ordering Paragraph B of this Order is due not later than April 30, 1996, and should cover the period from the January 1, 1996, until the end of the first calendar quarter, March 31, 1996.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on March 27, 1996.

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