

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

_____)
GAZ METROPOLITAIN AND COMPANY,) FE DOCKET NO. 96-77-NG
LIMITED PARTNERSHIP)
_____)

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO
IMPORT NATURAL GAS
FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1213

OCTOBER 31, 1996

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I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST _____

On October 30, 1996, as amended October 31, 1996, Gaz
Metropolitain and Company, Limited Partnership (Gaz Metro) 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 204-127, for 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
after October 31, 1996.^{2/} Gaz Metro, a Canadian partnership
with its principal place of business in Montreal, Quebec, is a
natural gas distributor. It is affiliated with Vermont Gas
Systems, Inc., a natural gas distribution company located in the
State of Vermont. Gaz Metro will import the gas under short-term
and spot market transactions and sell it to local distribution
companies, marketers, and end-users. The proposed authorization
does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING _____

The application filed by Gaz Metro 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 import of natural gas from a nation with
which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring

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

2/ Gaz Metro's current authorization, granted by DOE/FE Order

No. 998 on October 31, 1994, (1 FE 71,042) expires October 31, 1996.

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 Gaz Metro 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. Gaz Metropolitan and Company, Limited Partnership (Gaz Metro) is authorized to import up to 12 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term beginning on the date of first delivery after October 31, 1996. 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, Gaz Metro shall provide written notification to the Office of Fuels Programs (OFP), Fossil Energy, Room 3F-056, FE-50, 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, Gaz Metro shall file with OFP, 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 of natural gas have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports have occurred, Gaz Metro must report total monthly volumes in Mcf and the average purchase price of gas 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 United States 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.

D. The first quarterly report required by Ordering Paragraph C of this Order is due not later than January 30, 1997, and should cover the period from November 1, 1996, until the end of the fourth calendar quarter, December 31, 1996.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 31, 1996.

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