

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

FE DOCKET NO. 97-67-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION
TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1309

OCTOBER 16, 1997

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On September 25, 1997, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) 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 73 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per day of natural gas from Canada over a term of two years beginning on the date of the first delivery after November 30, 1997.⁽²⁾ SDG&E is a California corporation which is engaged in retail distribution of natural gas and gas transportation services. The volumes will be imported by SDG&E under short-term sales arrangements on its own behalf. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by SDG&E 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 consistent with the public interest and must be granted without modification or delay. The authorization sought by SDG&E 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. San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) is authorized to import from Canada up to 73 Bcf of natural gas over a two-year term beginning on the date of first delivery after November 30, 1997. The gas may be imported at any U.S./Canada border point.

B. Within two weeks after deliveries begin, SDG&E shall provide written notification to the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import and Export Activities, 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, SDG&E shall file with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import and Export Activities, 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 occur, SDG&E 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.

D. The first quarterly report required by Ordering Paragraph C of this Order is due not later than January 30, 1998, and should cover the period from December 1, 1997, until the end of the fourth calendar quarter, December 31, 1997.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 16, 1997.

Manager, Natural Gas Regulation
Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum
Import and Export Activities
Office of Fossil Energy

1. 1/ 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

2. 2/ This is the expiration date of SDG&E's existing blanket import authorization granted by DOE/FE Order No.1125, issued November 29, 1995 (1 FE ¶ 71,208).