

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

FE DOCKET NO. 97-98-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO
IMPORT NATURAL GAS
FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1333

NOVEMBER 10, 1997

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On November 7, 1997, Southern California Edison Company (Edison) 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, for blanket authorization to import up to 100 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term beginning November 1, 1997.⁽²⁾ Edison, a California corporation, is a regulated utility that provides electric service to approximately 4.2 million customers in Central and Southern California. This natural gas will be consumed at Edison's gas-fired generating stations during the process of generating electricity. Edison will import the natural gas under short-term and spot market arrangements, either on its own behalf or as the agent for others. The proposed authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by Edison 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 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 Edison 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. Southern California Edison Company (Edison) is authorized to import up to 100 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term from November 1, 1997, through October 31, 1999. This natural gas may be imported at any point on the border of the United States and Canada.

B. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, Edison 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 have occurred, Edison 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.

C. Quarterly reports shall be filed with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import and Export Activities, Fossil Energy, Room 3F-056, FE-34, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585.

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

Issued in Washington, D.C., on November 10, 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/ October 31, 1997, is the expiration date of Edison's previous blanket authorization to import natural gas from Canada, granted in DOE/FE Opinion and Order No. 1111 on October 31, 1995 (1 FE ¶ 71,191).