

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

AEC WEST LTD.

FE DOCKET NO. 98-50-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO
IMPORT NATURAL GAS
FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1400

JULY 9, 1998

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On July 1, 1998, AEC West Ltd. (AEC West) 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 200 Bcf of natural gas from Canada for a period of two years commencing August 1, 1998, and extending through July 31, 2000.⁽²⁾ AEC West is a Canadian corporation with its principal place of business in Calgary, Alberta. AEC West is engaged in the exploration, development, production and sale of oil and gas in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin. AEC West will import the gas under short-term and spot market conditions. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by AEC West 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 AEC West 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. AEC West Ltd. (AEC West) is authorized to import up to 200 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a period of two years commencing August 1, 1998, and extending through July 31, 2000. This natural gas may be imported at any point on the international border between the United States and Canada.

B. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, AEC West 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, AEC West 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 (by state); (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 reporting requirements required by Ordering Paragraph B of this Order shall be filed with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import and Export Activities, Fossil Energy, Room 3E-042, 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 October 30, 1998, and should cover the period from August 1, 1998, through the end of the third calendar quarter, September 30, 1998.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on July 9, 1998.

John W. Glynn

Manager, Natural Gas Regulation

Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum

Import & Export Activities

Office of Fossil Energy

1. 1/ 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

2. 2/ AEC West's blanket import authorization granted by DOE/FE Order No. 1191 dated July 26, 1996, (1 FE ¶ 71,292) expires on July 31, 1998.