

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

PORTLAND NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION)
SYSTEM)

FE DOCKET NO. 99-11-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO
IMPORT NATURAL GAS
FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1462

FEBRUARY 11, 1999

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On February 9, 1999, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS) 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 0.8 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada for a period of two years commencing on the date of first delivery. PNGTS is a partnership organized under the laws of the State of Maine, with its principal place of business in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. PNGTS owns a new pipeline system extending from the Canadian border to Haverhill, Massachusetts. PNGTS intends to purchase Canadian natural gas under spot and short-term purchase arrangements for line pack in its new pipeline. The line pack is necessary to commence commercial operation of PNGT's pipeline, which is scheduled to become operational in February 1999.

II. FINDING

The application filed by PNGTS 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 PNGTS to import natural gas from Canada, a nation with which a free trade agreement is in effect, meets the section 3(c)

1/ 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

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. Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS) is authorized to import up to 0.8 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a period of two years commencing on the date of first delivery. This natural gas may be imported at any point on the international border between the United States and Canada.

B. Within two weeks after deliveries begin, PNGTS shall provide written notification 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, PNGTS 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, PNGTS 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 markets(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.

D. The notice and reports required by Ordering Paragraphs B and C 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.

E. The first quarterly report required by Ordering Paragraph C of this Order is due not later than April 30, 1999, and should cover the period from the date of this Order, through the end of the first calendar quarter, March 31, 1999.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on February 11, 1999.

John W. Glynn
Manager, Natural Gas Regulation
Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum
Import & Export Activities
Office of Fossil Energy