

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

_____)
CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION) FE DKT NO. 99-29-NG
_____)

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO
IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1480

MAY 19, 1999

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On May 6, 1999, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade) 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 authorization to import from Canada up to 100 billion cubic feet of natural gas beginning July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2001.^{2/} Cascade is a public utility engaged in the distribution and sale of natural gas in the States of Oregon and Washington. Cascade is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Seattle. Cascade will import the gas under spot and short-term transactions for its system supply. The proposed authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by Cascade 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 Cascade 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.

^{1/} 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

^{2/} This is the expiration date of Cascade's existing blanket import authorization granted by DOE/FE Order No. 1281 dated June 24, 1997 (1 FE ¶ 71,418).

ORDER

Pursuant to section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, it is ordered that:

A. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade) is authorized to import from Canada up to 100 billion cubic feet of natural gas beginning July 1, 1999, and extending through June 30, 2001.

B. This natural gas may be imported at any point on the border of the United States and Canada.

C. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, Cascade shall file with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, quarterly reports indicating whether imports of natural gas have been made. 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, Cascade 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 transaction, including: (1) the name of the sellers(s); (2) the name of the purchaser(s); (3) the estimate 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 October 30, 1999, and should cover the period from July 1, 1999, until the end of the third calendar quarter, September 30, 1999.

E. The quarterly reports required by Ordering Paragraph C of this Order shall be filed with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, Fossil Energy, Room 3E-042, FE-34, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on May 19, 1999.

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