

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

_____)
DISTRIBUIDORA de GAS NATURAL) FE DOCKET NO. 99-35-NG
de MEXICALI)
_____)

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT
NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA AND TO EXPORT
NATURAL GAS TO MEXICO

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1490

JUNE 11, 1999

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On May 28, 1999, Distribuidora de Gas Natural de Mexicali (DGN) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy of the Department of Energy (DOE), under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act^{1/} (NGA) and DOE Delegation Order Nos. 0204-111 and 0204-127, for blanket authorization to import up to 18.3 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada and to export up to 18.3 Bcf of Canadian or U.S. natural gas to Mexico. The term of the requested authorization is from July 31, 1999, and extends through July 30, 2001.^{2/} DGN is a limited liability partnership incorporated in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. DGN intends to import and export the gas under short-term and spot market transactions either on its own behalf or as the agent for others. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by DGN has been evaluated to determine if the proposed import/export 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 or export of natural gas from or to 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 DGN to import natural gas from Canada and to export natural gas to Mexico, nations with which

^{1/} 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

^{2/} July 30, 1999, is the expiration date of DGN's existing blanket import/export authorization granted by DOE/FE Order No. 1286 on June 27, 1997 (1 FE ¶ 71,423).

free trade agreements are 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. Distribuidora de Gas Natural de Mexicali (DGN) is authorized to import up to 18.3 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada and to export up to 18.3 Bcf of natural gas to Mexico over a two-year term beginning on July 31, 1999, and extending through July 30, 2001. This natural gas may be imported and exported at any United States international border point.

B. With respect to the natural gas imports and exports authorized by this Order, DGN shall file with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities within 30 days following each calendar quarter, reports indicating whether imports or exports of natural gas have been made during that quarter. If no imports or exports of natural gas have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports or exports have occurred, DGN must report the following: (1) total monthly volumes in Mcf; (2) the average monthly purchase price of gas per MMBtu at the international border; (3) the name of the seller(s); (4) the name of the purchaser(s); (5) the estimated or actual duration of the agreement(s); (6) the name of the United States transporter(s); (7) the point(s) of entry and exit; and (8) the geographic market(s) served (for imports, by State). For import transactions only, the report shall also include: (1) whether sales are being made on an interruptible or firm basis; and, if applicable, (2) the per unit (MMBtu) demand/commodity/reservation charge breakdown of the contract price. [OMB No.:1901-0294]

C. The first quarterly report required by Ordering Paragraph B of this Order is due not later than October 30, 1999, and should cover the period from July 31, 1999, until the end of the third calendar quarter, September 30, 1999.

D. The quarterly reports required by Ordering Paragraph B 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 June 11, 1999.

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