

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

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WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION) FE DOCKET NO. 99-44-NG
_____)

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO
IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1498

JUNE 21, 1999

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On June 17, 1999, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC) 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 6 Bcf of natural gas beginning on the date of first delivery after August 31, 1999.^{2/} WPSC, a Wisconsin corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of WPS Resources Corporation, provides wholesale and retail natural gas and electric service in northeastern and central Wisconsin and part of upper Michigan. WPSC's principal place of business is in Green Bay, Wisconsin. WPSC will import the gas under spot and short-term transactions for its own account, as well as for others for which WPSC may agree to act as agent. The proposed authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by WPSC 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 WPSC 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.

^{2/} This is the expiration date of WPSC's existing blanket import authorization granted by DOE/FE Order No. 943 dated May 3, 1994 (1 FE ¶ 70,966).

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. Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC) is authorized to import from Canada up to 6 Bcf of natural gas beginning September 1, 1999, through August 31, 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, WPSC shall file with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, 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, WPSC 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. [OMB NO. : 1901-0294]

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 September 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 June 21, 1999.

Clifford P. Tomaszewski
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