

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

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BC GAS UTILITY LTD.)) FE DOCKET NO. 96-07-NG
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ORDER AMENDING AUTHORIZATION
TO IMPORT AND EXPORT NATURAL GAS FROM AND TO CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1149-A

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On March 23, 2000, BC Gas Utility Ltd. (BC Gas) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) 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 an amendment to its existing import/export authorization issued in DOE/FE Order No.1149 (Order 1149).^{2/} Order 1149 authorized BC Gas to import up to 5 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas per year from Canada for storage at the Jackson Prairie Storage Field in Chehalis, Washington, and to export equivalent volumes back to Canada, over a four year term that will expire April 30, 2000. BC Gas requests that Ordering Paragraph A of Order 1149 be amended to extend the term to April 30, 2002, and to increase the annual limit to 6,000,000 MMBtu's (approximately 6 Bcf). BC Gas is a local distribution company located in Vancouver, British Columbia, which provides

^{1/} 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

^{2/} 1 FE ¶ 71,240.

natural gas service to 756,000 residential customers. The proposed extension of the natural gas import and export authorization is designed to facilitate agreements of BC Gas with five companies related to the delivery, storage and re-delivery of gas to and from the Jackson Prairie Storage facility.

II. FINDING

The application filed by BC Gas 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 BC Gas to import and export natural gas from and to 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.

ORDER

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

A. DOE/FE Order No. 1149 (Order 1149) is amended to authorize BC Gas Utility Ltd. to import up to 6 billion cubic feet of natural gas annually from Canada through existing pipeline facilities at Sumas, Washington, and Eastport, Idaho for storage at the Jackson Prairie Storage Field in Washington State, and to export equivalent volumes back into Canada, through April 30, 2002.

B. With respect to the natural gas imports and exports authorized by this Order, BC Gas

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 occurred. Quarterly reports must be filed whether or not initial deliveries have begun. 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, BC Gas must report the total monthly volumes in Mcf by entry and exit point, including the identity of the U.S. pipelines used. [OMB No.: 1901-0294]

C. The first quarterly report required by Ordering Paragraph B of this Order is due not later than July 30, 2000, and should cover the period from May 1, 2000, until the end of the second calendar quarter, June 30, 2000.

D. The quarterly report 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 April 19, 2000.

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