

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY**

**NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)
(WISCONSIN))**

FE DOCKET NO. 00-57-NG

**ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION
TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA**

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1620

AUGUST 10, 2000

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On August 2, 2000, Northern States Power Company (Wisconsin) (NSPW) 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, requesting blanket authorization to import up to 20 Bcf of natural gas from Canada.^{2/} The term of the authorization would be for two years beginning on the date of the first delivery. NSPW, a Wisconsin corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northern States Power Company (Minnesota), is headquartered in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. NSPW is a public utility which supplies electricity and natural gas to customers in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The gas will be imported from Canada under spot and short-term sales arrangements. The specific terms of each import transaction, including the price and volume, would be negotiated at arms length in response to market conditions. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by NSPW 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 importation 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 NSPW 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. This blanket order

^{1/} . 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

^{2/} . NSPW's previously held a two-year blanket authorization to import natural gas from Canada, issued April 4, 1995, which expired July 31, 2000 (1 FE ¶ 71,098)

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. Northern States Power Company (Wisconsin) (NSPW) is authorized to import from Canada, at any point on the international border, up to 20 Bcf of natural gas over a two-year term beginning on the date of first delivery.

B. Within two weeks after deliveries begin, NSPW shall provide written notification to the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, Fossil Energy, Room 3E-042, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, 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, NSPW 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. Quarterly reports must be filed whether or not initial deliveries have begun. If no imports have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports have occurred, NSPW must report total monthly volumes in Mcf and the average purchase price 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; (3) the estimated 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, 2000, and should cover the period from the date of this Order until the end of the third calendar quarter, September 30, 2000.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on August 10, 2000.

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