

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

SPRAGUE ENERGY CORP.)
_____)

FE DOCKET NO. 00-98-NG

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

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1661

DECEMBER 22, 2000

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On December 19, 2000, Sprague Energy Corp. (Sprague Energy) 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, requesting authority to import up to 50 billion cubic feet of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term beginning January 1, 2001, and extending through December 31, 2002.^{2/} Sprague Energy, a natural gas marketer, is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by Sprague Energy 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 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 Sprague Energy 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 authorizes transactions under contracts with terms of no longer than two years.

^{1/} 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

^{2/} December 31, 2000, is the expiration date of Sprague Energy's import authorization granted by DOE/FE Order No. 1451 on December 31, 1998 (2 FE ¶ 70,285).

ORDER

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

A. Sprague Energy Corp. (Sprague Energy) is authorized to import up to 50 billion cubic feet of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2001, and extending through December 31, 2002. This natural gas may be imported at any United States/Canada border point.

B. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, Sprague Energy shall file with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, Fossil Energy, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, reports indicating whether imports of natural gas have been made. If no imports have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports have occurred, Sprague Energy 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(s); (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 (by State); (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]

C. The first quarterly report required by Ordering Paragraph B of this Order is due not later than April 30, 2001, and should cover the period from January 1, 2001, until the end of the first calendar quarter, March 31, 2001.

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 December 22, 2000.

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