

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

WISCONSIN GAS COMPANY)
_____)

FE DOCKET NO. 00-97-NG

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

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1662

DECEMBER 26, 2000

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On December 18, 2000, Wisconsin Gas Company (WGC) 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, for blanket authority to import up to 200 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada. The term of the authorization will be for two years beginning January 1, 2000, and extending through December 31, 2002.^{2/} WGC is a public utility which has its principal place of business in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It sells natural gas to more than 500,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers statewide. WGC is a subsidiary of WICOR, Inc., which also has its business office in Milwaukee. The gas will be imported under spot-market and short-term purchase arrangements for use within WGC's distribution system. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by WGC 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 WGC to import natural gas

^{1/} 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

^{2/} The current two-year authorization held by WGC to import 200 Bcf of Canadian gas, which was granted in DOE/FE Order No.1465, expires December 31, 2000 (2 FE ¶ 70,302, February 24, 1999).

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.

ORDER

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

A. Wisconsin Gas Company (WGC) is authorized to import up to 200 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a period of two years commencing January 1, 2001, and continuing through December 31, 2002. This natural gas may be imported at any point on the international border between the United States and Canada.

B. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, WGC will 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 of natural gas have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports have occurred, WGC must report total monthly volumes in Mcf and the average purchase price of gas per MMBtu at the international border. The reports will also provide the details of each import transaction, including: (1) the name of the seller; (2) the name of the purchaser(s); (3) the estimated or actual duration of the agreement(s); (4) the name of the United States transporter; (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 reports required by Ordering Paragraph B of this Order will be filed with 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.

D. 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.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 26, 2000.

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