

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY)
_____)

FE DOCKET NO. 01-68-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO
IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1730

OCTOBER 30, 2001

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On October 23, 2001, Sierra Pacific Power Company (Sierra) 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 blanket authorization to import up to 100 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada, over a two-year term beginning on December 31, 2001.^{2/} Sierra, a public utility presently engaged in the distribution and sale of natural gas, is a Nevada corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sierra Pacific Resources, with its principal place of business Reno, Nevada. Sierra will import the gas under short-term and spot market arrangements. The proposed authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by Sierra 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 Sierra 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/} This is the date in which Sierra's current blanket authorization to import natural gas granted by DOE/FE Order No. 11518 dated October 8, 1999, (2 FE ¶ 70,383) expires.

ORDER

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

A. Sierra Pacific Power Company (Sierra) is authorized to import up to 100 Bcf of natural gas from Canada, over a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2002, and extending through December 31, 2003.

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, Sierra 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 of natural gas have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports have occurred, Sierra 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 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 United States 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 April 30, 2002, and should cover the period from January 1, 2002, until the end of the first calendar quarter, March 31, 2002.

E. The quarterly reports shall 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.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 30, 2001.

Thomas W. Dukes
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