

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

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CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION )  
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FE DOCKET NO. 03-20-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION  
TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1867

MAY 13, 2003

## I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On May 6, 2003, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy of the Department of Energy (DOE), under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA),<sup>1/</sup> for blanket authority to import up to 200 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada, beginning on July 1, 2003.<sup>2/</sup> Cascade is a local distribution company engaged in the distribution and sale of natural gas in intrastate commerce in the States of Washington and Oregon. Cascade is a Washington corporation with its principal place of business in Seattle, Washington. Cascade will import the gas under competitive terms and conditions. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

## II. FINDING

The application filed by Cascade 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 Cascade 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

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<sup>1</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 717b. This authority is delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy pursuant to Redefinition Order No. 00-002.04 (January 8, 2001).

<sup>2</sup> Cascade's current blanket authorization to import natural gas granted by DOE/FE Order No. 1692, issued February 25, 2001 (2 FE ¶ 70,640), expires June 30, 2003.

two years.

#### ORDER

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

A. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation(Cascade) is authorized to import up to 200 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term beginning on July 1, 2003, and extending through June 30, 2005.

B. This natural gas may be imported at any point on the international border between the United States and Canada.

C. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, Cascade 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, Cascade 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(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 (by State); and, if applicable, (7) the per unit (MMBtu) demand/commodity/reservation charge breakdown of the contract price. [OMB NO.: 1901-0294]

D. The reports required by 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.

E. The first quarterly report required by this Order is due not later than October 30, 2003, and should cover the period from July 1, 2003, until the end of the third calendar quarter, September 30, 2003.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on May 13, 2003.

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