

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

MARATHON OIL COMPANY) DOCKET NO. 04-74-NG
_____))

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO
IMPORT AND EXPORT NATURAL GAS
FROM AND TO CANADA AND MEXICO

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 2006

JULY 29, 2004

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On July 28, 2004, Marathon Oil Company (Marathon) 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/} for blanket authorization to import and export up to a combined total of 100 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from and to Canada and Mexico. The applicant requests the authorization be granted for a two-year term beginning on August 1, 2004. Marathon is a Ohio corporation with its principal place of business in Houston, Texas.

II. FINDING

The application has been evaluated to determine if the proposed import and export 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 and export of natural gas from and to nations with which there are in effect free trade agreements requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas are deemed to be consistent with the public interest and must be granted without modification or delay. The authorization sought by Marathon to import and export natural gas from and to Canada and Mexico, nations with which free trade agreements are in effect, meets the section 3(c) criterion and, therefore, is consistent with the public interest. This Order authorizes transactions under contracts with terms of no longer than two years.

^{1/} 15 U.S.C. § 717b. This authority is delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy pursuant to Redelegation Order No. 00-002.04 (January 8, 2002).

ORDER

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

A. Marathon Oil Company (Marathon) is authorized to import up to a combined total of 100 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada and Mexico. The term of the authority will begin on August 1, 2004, and extend through July 31, 2006.

B. This natural gas may be imported and exported at any point on the borders between the United States and Canada, and between the United States and Mexico.

C. With respect to the natural gas imports and exports authorized by this Order, Marathon shall file with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, reports indicating whether imports and exports of natural gas have been made. Quarterly reports must be filed whether or not initial deliveries have begun. If no imports and exports of natural gas have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports and exports have occurred, the report must give the details of each transaction, including: (1) the total monthly volumes in thousand cubic feet (Mcf); (2) the average purchase price of gas per million British thermal units (MMBtu) at the international border; (3) the name of the seller(s); (4) the name of the purchaser(s); (5) the estimated or actual duration of the agreement(s); (6) the name of the United States transporter(s); (7) the point(s) of entry and exit; (8) the geographic market(s) served (for imports, by State); and, if applicable, (9) the per unit (MMBtu) demand/commodity/reservation charge breakdown of the contract price. [OMB No.: 1901-0294]

D. The first quarterly report required by this Order is due not later than October 30, 2004, and should cover the period from until the end of the Insert correct quarter: third calendar quarter, September 30, 2004.

E. The quarterly reports shall be filed with the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, FE-34, P.O. Box 44375, Washington, D.C. 20026-4375.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on July 29, 2004.

Manager, Natural Gas Regulation
Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum
Import & Export Activities
Office of Fossil Energy