

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

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OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

_____)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION)
Doing business as NorthWestern Energy)
_____)

DOCKET NO. 04-116-NG

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

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 2048

NOVEMBER 17, 2004

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On November 15, 2004, NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy 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 20 billion cubic feet of natural gas from and to Canada. NorthWestern Energy requests the authorization be granted for a two-year term beginning on February 7, 2005. NorthWestern Energy is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Butte, Montana.

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 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 NorthWestern Energy to import and export natural gas from and to Canada, a nation with which a free trade agreement is in effect, meets the section 3(c) criterion and, therefore, is consistent

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

with the public interest. This Order authorizes transactions with terms of no longer than two years.

ORDER

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

A. NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy is authorized to import and export up to a combined total of 20 billion cubic feet of natural gas from and to Canada. The two-year term of authority will begin on February 7, 2005, and extend through February 6, 2007.

B. This natural gas may be imported and exported at any entry or exit point on the border of the United States and Canada.

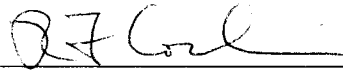
C. With respect to the natural gas imports and exports authorized by this Order, NorthWestern Energy shall file with the Office of Natural Gas Regulatory Activities, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, reports indicating whether imports and exports of natural gas have been made. Quarterly 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/or 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 April 30, 2005, and should cover the period from February 7, 2005, until the end of the first calendar quarter, March 31, 2005.

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

Issued in Washington, D.C., on November 17, 2004.



R. F. Corbin
Manager, Natural Gas Regulatory Activities
Office of Oil and Gas Global Security and Supply
Office of Fossil Energy