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

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 1656

DECEMBER 8, 2000
I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On December 1, 2000, PEMEX Gas y Petroquimica Basica (PEMEX Gas) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy of the Department of Energy (DOE), under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), and DOE Delegation Order Nos. 0204-111 and 0204-127, for blanket authorization to import and export up to a combined total of 160 billion cubic feet of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), from and to Canada and Mexico over a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2001, and extending through December 31, 2002. PEMEX Gas is a decentralized public entity of the federal government of Mexico and a subsidiary of Petroleos Mexicanos, which is also a decentralized public entity of the federal government of Mexico. PEMEX Gas supplies natural gas to markets throughout Mexico, and owns and operates transmission and distribution facilities in Mexico for that purpose. PEMEX Gas from time to time augments its domestic production with supplies of gas imported from the United States and exports surplus gas supplies to markets in the United States and Canada. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

II. FINDING

The application filed by PEMEX Gas 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),

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2/ PEMEX Gas’ current blanket authority under DOE/FE Order No. 1435, 2 FE ¶ 70,261, expires December 31, 2000.
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 PEMEX Gas to import and export natural gas, including LNG, from and to Canada and Mexico, nations 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. PEMEX Gas y Petroquimica Basica (PEMEX Gas) is authorized to import and export up to a combined total of 160 billion cubic feet of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas, from and to Canada and Mexico over a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2001, and extending through December 31, 2002. This natural gas may be imported and exported at any point on the international border between the United States and Canada, and the United States and Mexico.

B. With respect to the natural gas imports and exports authorized by this Order, PEMEX Gas shall file within 30 days following each calendar quarter, reports indicating whether imports or exports of natural gas have been made. If no imports or exports of natural gas have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports or exports have occurred, PEMEX Gas must report the following: (1) total monthly volumes in Mcf, (2) the average monthly purchase price of gas per 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; and (8) the geographic market(s) served (for imports, by State). For import transactions only, the report shall include: (1) whether sales are being made on an interruptible or firm basis; and, if applicable, (2) the per unit (MMBtu) demand/commodity/reservation charge breakdown of the contract price. [OMB No.: 1901-0294]

C. 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, through the end of the first calendar quarter, March 31, 2000.

D. The reports required by Ordering Paragraph B of this Order shall be filed with the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, Fossil Energy, Room 3E-042, FE-34, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20585.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 8, 2000.

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