/ 1 FE  70,502.
/ 1 FE  70,956.
/ 1 FE  71,146.
/ 1 FE  71,218.
supplies under purchase contracts with two Canadian producers, Renaissance Energy Limited (15,000 Mcf per day) and Sceptre Resources Limited (Sceptre) (45,000 Mcf per day). NEP uses the imported gas supply for electric generation and for resale on the domestic spot market. NEP has exercised its right under its contract with Sceptre to decrease contract purchases by

10,000 MMBtu per day, and requests that DOE amend NEP's authority to reflect this decrease in import volumes. Consistent with the decreased purchases from Sceptre, NEP on November 1, 1996, also released 10,000 Mcf per day of pipeline capacity on TransCanada PipeLines Limited, which delivers the gas to the international border.

Under section 3 of NGA, as amended by section 201 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-486), the importation 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 related applications must be granted without modification or delay. Approving NEP's application to amend its current authority covering imports of natural gas produced in Canada meets the section 3(c) criterion and, therefore, is consistent with the public interest.

/ 1 MMBtu is equivalent to 1 Mcf.
ORDER

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

A. DOE/FE Order No. 551 (Order 551), issued to New England Power Company (NEP) on November 27, 1991, as amended by DOE/FE Order Nos. 551-A (issued May 2, 1994), 551-B (issued August 2, 1995), and 551-C (issued December 20, 1995), is further amended to decrease the volumes of natural gas NEP may import from Sceptre Resources Limited (Sceptre) from 45,000 Mcf per day to 35,000 Mcf per day. This decrease of imported natural gas shall be accomplished in accordance with the provisions of NEP's supply contract with Sceptre dated August 31, 1988, as amended.

B. All other terms and conditions of the import authorization contained in Order 551, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on February 6, 1997.

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Wayne E. Peters
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Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum
Import and Export Activities
Office of Fossil Energy