

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

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BRIDGEGAS U.S.A. INC. ) FE DOCKET NO. 93-47-NG  
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ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION TO  
IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 800

MAY 7, 1993

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST \_\_\_\_\_

On May 6, 1993, BridgeGas U.S.A. Inc. (BridgeGas) 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/

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for blanket authorization to import up to 20 Bcf of natural gas from Canada over a two-year term retroactive to February 1, 1992. BridgeGas, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Dallas, Texas, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bridge Oil (U.S.A.), Inc. BridgeGas will import the gas under spot and short-term purchase arrangements, either on its own behalf or as an agent for others. The requested authorization does not involve the construction of new pipeline facilities.

BridgeGas states that during 1992, it inadvertently imported natural gas from Canada without authorization.2/ BridgeGas

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asserts that it had an import arrangement with a brokerage firm which BridgeGas assumed had obtained import authorization from DOE. However, BridgeGas recently learned that the 1992 imported volumes had not been authorized, and has filed this application to obtain the proper authorization. BridgeGas has reported to DOE the total monthly unauthorized volumes which previously were imported, giving the specific details of each transaction.

II. FINDING \_\_\_\_\_

The application filed by BridgeGas has been evaluated to determine if the proposed import arrangement meets the public

1/ 15 U.S.C. 717b. \_\_\_\_\_

2/ By DOE/FE Opinion and Order No. 602, issued April 17, 1992,

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BridgeGas was granted blanket authorization to export natural gas  
to Mexico over a two-year period. See 1 FE Para. 70, 562.  
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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 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 must be granted without modification or delay. The authorization sought by BridgeGas 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. The unique circumstances of this case are sufficient to justify granting the authorization retroactively. This blanket order authorizes transactions under contracts with terms of no longer than two years.

ORDER

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

A. BridgeGas U.S.A. Inc. (BridgeGas) is authorized to import from Canada, at any point on the international border, up to 20 Bcf of natural gas from February 1, 1992, through January 31, 1994.

B. With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, BridgeGas shall file with the Office of Fuels Programs, Fossil Energy, Room 3F-056, FE-50, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, quarterly reports

indicating whether imports of natural gas have been made. If no imports have been made, a report of "no activity" for that calendar quarter must be filed. If imports occur, BridgeGas must report total monthly volumes in Mcf and the average purchase price of gas per MMBtu at the international border. The reports shall 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 U.S. transporter(s); (5) the point(s) of entry; (6) the geographic market(s) served; (7) whether sales are being made on an interruptible or firm basis; and, if applicable, (8) the per unit (MMBtu) demand/commodity/reservation charge breakdown of the contract price.

D. The first quarterly report required by Ordering Paragraph B of this Order is due not later than July 30, 1993, and should cover the period from April 1, 1993, through the end of the current calendar quarter, June 30, 1993.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on May 7, 1993.

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Anthony J. Como  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Fuels Programs  
Office of Fossil Energy