

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.

DOCKET NO. 22-116-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION
TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/FECM ORDER NO. 4906

OCTOBER 31, 2022

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On September 15, 2022, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota Utilities) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) of the Department of Energy (DOE) requesting blanket authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)¹ for the authority summarized in the list below. The applicant requests the authorization for a two-year term beginning on December 1, 2022.² Montana-Dakota Utilities is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Bismarck, North Dakota.

1. Import up to 1.3 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada by pipeline at any point on the border between the United States and Canada

II. FINDING

DOE has evaluated the application to determine if the proposed import and/or 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 NGA section 3(c), imports and exports of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), from or to any country with which the United States has entered into a free trade agreement (FTA) requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas and the import of LNG from other international sources are deemed to be consistent with the public interest.³ DOE must grant such applications without modification or delay.⁴ The authorization sought by Montana-Dakota Utilities meets the NGA section 3(c) criteria, and, therefore, is deemed to be consistent with the public interest.

1. Authority to regulate the imports and exports of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas, under section 3 of the NGA (15 U.S.C. § 717b) has been delegated to the Assistant Secretary for FECM in Redelegation Order No. S4-DEL-FE1-2022, issued on June 13, 2022. On July 4, 2021, the Office of Fossil Energy changed its name to the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management.

2. Montana-Dakota Utilities' blanket authorization, granted in DOE/FE Order No. 4626, extends through November 30, 2022.

3. 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c).

4. *Id.*

ORDER

Pursuant to section 3(c) of the NGA, it is ordered that:

A. Montana-Dakota Utilities is authorized for the activity described below. This authorization shall be effective for a two-year term beginning on December 1, 2022, and extending through November 30, 2024.

1. Import up to 1.3 Bcf of natural gas from Canada by pipeline at any point on the border between the United States and Canada

B. **Monthly Reports:** With respect to the imports and/or exports authorized by this Order, Montana-Dakota Utilities shall file with the Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement, within 30 days following the last day of each calendar month, a report on Form FE-746R indicating whether imports and/or exports have been made. Monthly reports must be filed whether or not initial deliveries have begun. If no imports and/or exports have been made, a report of "no activity" for that month must be filed. If imports and/or exports have occurred, the report must provide the information specified for each applicable activity and mode of transportation, as set forth in the Guidelines for Filing Monthly Reports. These Guidelines are available at: <https://www.energy.gov/fe/services/natural-gas-regulation/guidelines-filing-monthly-reports>.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control No. 1901-0294)

C. The first monthly report required by this Order is due not later than January 30, 2023, and should cover the reporting period from December 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 31, 2022.

Amy R. Sweeney

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Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, & Engagement

Office of Resource Sustainability

Digitally signed by Amy R. Sweeney. Date: 2022.10.31 06:32:38 -04:00