

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

NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION D/B/A  
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

DOCKET NO. 24-134-NG

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

DOE/FECM ORDER NO. 5226

DECEMBER 10, 2024

## I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On October 24, 2024, NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern Energy) 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)<sup>1</sup> for the authority summarized in the list below. The applicant requests the authorization for a two-year term beginning on February 7, 2025.<sup>2</sup> NorthWestern Energy is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Butte, Montana.

1. Import natural gas from Canada by pipeline at any point on the border between the United States and Canada
2. Export natural gas to Canada by pipeline at any point on the border between the United States and Canada

Import and export authority was requested for up to a combined total volume equivalent to 10 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas.

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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-FE1-2023, issued on April 10, 2023.

2. NorthWestern Energy's blanket authorization, granted in DOE/FECM Order No. 4912, extends through February 6, 2025.

## II. **FINDING**

DOE has evaluated the application to determine if the proposed import and/or export arrangements meet 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.<sup>3</sup> DOE must grant such applications without modification or delay.<sup>4</sup> The authorization sought by NorthWestern Energy meets the NGA section 3(c) criteria, and, therefore, is deemed to be consistent with the public interest.

## **ORDER**

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

A. NorthWestern Energy is authorized for the activity described in the list below. This authorization shall be effective for a two-year term beginning on February 7, 2025, and extending through February 6, 2027.

1. Import natural gas from Canada by pipeline at any point on the border between the United States and Canada
2. Export natural gas to Canada by pipeline at any point on the border between the United States and Canada

The applicant is authorized to import and export up to a combined total volume equivalent to 10 Bcf of natural gas.

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3. 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c).

4. *Id.*

B. **Monthly Reports:** With respect to the imports and/or exports authorized by this Order, NorthWestern Energy 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/fecm/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 March 30, 2025, and should cover the reporting period from February 7, 2025 through February 28, 2025.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 10, 2024.

*Amy R. Sweeney*

Amy R. Sweeney

Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, & Engagement

Office of Resource Sustainability

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Digitally signed by Amy R. Sweeney. Date: 2024.12.10 12:18:14 -05:00