

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

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SPRAGUE OPERATING RESOURCES LLC	)	DOCKET NO. 25-25-NG
	)	DOCKET NO. 23-71-NG
_____	)	

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION  
TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA,  
AND VACATING PRIOR BLANKET AUTHORIZATION

DOE/FECM ORDER NOS. 5268 AND 5027-A

MARCH 17, 2025

## I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On January 30, 2025, Sprague Operating Resources LLC (Sprague Operating Resources) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) of the Department of Energy (DOE) under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)<sup>1</sup> for blanket authorization to import up to 16.5 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from Canada by pipeline.<sup>2</sup> The applicant requests the authorization be granted for a two-year term beginning on March 17, 2025.<sup>3</sup> Sprague Operating Resources is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Previously, on July 28, 2023, DOE granted Sprague Operating Resources authorization in DOE/FECM Order No. 5027 to import up to 10.5 Bcf of natural gas from Canada for a two-year term beginning on August 29, 2023, and extending through August 28, 2025.

On January 30, 2025, Sprague Operating Resources asked DOE to vacate its existing authorization in DOE/FECM Order No. 5027, effective March 17, 2025, to be concurrent with the issuance of the new authorization it has requested.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The 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.

<sup>2</sup> Sprague Operating Resources' blanket authorization, granted in DOE/FECM Order No. 5027, authorizes import volumes up to 10.5 Bcf of natural gas. On January 30, 2025, Sprague Operating Resources asked for an authorized volume increase to 16.5 Bcf of natural gas. *See* Sprague Operating Resources LLC, Application for Blanket Authorization to Import Natural Gas From Canada, Docket No. 25-25-NG (Jan. 30, 2025) [hereinafter App.]; *see also* Emails from Debbie Murphy, Regulatory and Governance Specialist, Sprague Operating Resources, to DOE (Jan. 30, 2025 and Feb. 18, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> *See* Emails from Debbie Murphy, Regulatory and Governance Specialist, Sprague Operating Resources, to DOE (Jan. 30, 2025 and Feb. 18, 2025); *see also* App. at 1.

<sup>4</sup> Email from Debbie Murphy to DOE (Jan. 30, 2025); *see also* Email from Debbie Murphy to DOE (Feb. 18, 2025).

## II. FINDING

The application has been evaluated to determine if the proposed import 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), the import and export of natural gas including liquefied natural gas (LNG), from and to a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement 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, and applications for such imports or exports must be granted without modification or delay. The authorization sought by Sprague Operating Resources to import natural gas from Canada, a nation with which a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas is in effect, meets the section 3(c) criterion and, therefore, is consistent with the public interest. This Order authorizes transactions with terms of not greater than two years.

### ORDER

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

A. Sprague Operating Resources is authorized to import 16.5 Bcf of natural gas from Canada, pursuant to transactions that have terms of not greater than two years. This authorization shall be effective for a two-year term beginning on March 17, 2025, and extending through March 16, 2027.

B. This natural gas may be imported by pipeline at any point on the border between the United States and Canada.

C. **Monthly Reports:** With respect to the natural gas imports authorized by this Order, Sprague Operating Resources 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 of natural gas have been made. Monthly reports must be filed whether or not initial deliveries have begun. If no imports have been made, a report of “no activity” for that month must be filed. If imports of natural gas 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)

D. The first monthly report required by this Order is due not later than April 30, 2025, and should cover the reporting period from March 17, 2025, through March 31, 2025.

E. Sprague Operating Resources’ blanket authorization to import natural gas from Canada, granted in DOE/FECM Order No. 5027 on July 28, 2023, is hereby vacated, effective March 17, 2025.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on March 17, 2025.

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Amy R. Sweeney  
Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement  
Office of Resource Sustainability