

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
HYDROCARBONS AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY OFFICE

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.

DOCKET NO. 26-126-NG

ORDER GRANTING BLANKET AUTHORIZATION
TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS FROM CANADA

DOE/HGEO ORDER NO. 5518

OCTOBER 30, 2026

I. **DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST**

On September 14, 2026, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota Utilities) filed an application with the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO) 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, 2026.² Montana-Dakota Utilities is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Bismarck, North Dakota.

1. Import up to 4 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. On November 20, 2025, the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) changed its name to the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO). 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 (now the Assistant Secretary for HGEO) in Redefinition Order No. S4-DEL-FE1-2023, issued on April 10, 2023.

2. Montana-Dakota Utilities' blanket authorization, granted in DOE/FECM Order No. 5223, extends through November 30, 2026.

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, 2026, and extending through November 30, 2028.

1. Import up to 4 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 Global Energy Security, 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/hgeo/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, 2027, and should cover the reporting period from December 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 30, 2026.

Amy R. Sweeney

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Director, Office of Global Energy Security

Office of Strategic Resources



Digitally signed by Amy R. Sweeney. Date: 2026.10.30 03:08:56 -04:00