

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

\_\_\_\_\_  
HOUSTON PIPE LINE COMPANY LP  
\_\_\_\_\_

)  
)  
)

FE DOCKET NO. 17-163-NG

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

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 4135

JANUARY 4, 2018

## I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On December 21, 2017, Houston Pipe Line Company LP (Houston Pipe Line) filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)<sup>1</sup> for blanket authorization to import and export up to a combined total of 600 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from and to Mexico via pipeline. The applicant requests the authorization be granted for a two-year term beginning on March 1, 2018.<sup>2</sup> Houston Pipe Line is a Delaware limited partnership with its principal place of business in Dallas, Texas.

## II. FINDING

The application has been evaluated 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 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 and exports must be granted without modification or delay. The authorization sought by Houston Pipe Line to import and export natural gas from and to Mexico, 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 no longer than two years.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 FE in Redelegation Order No. 00-006.02 issued on November 17, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Houston Pipe Line's blanket authorization to import and export natural gas from and to Mexico, granted in DOE/FE Order No. 3761 on December 30, 2015, extends through February 28, 2018.

ORDER

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

A. Houston Pipe Line is authorized to import and export up to a combined total of 600 Bcf of natural gas from and to Mexico, pursuant to transactions that have terms of no longer than two years. This authorization shall be effective for a two-year term beginning on March 1, 2018, and extending through February 29, 2020.

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

C. **Monthly Reports:** With respect to the natural gas imports and exports authorized by this Order, Houston Pipe Line shall file with the Office of Regulation and International Engagement, within 30 days following the last day of each calendar month, a report indicating whether imports or exports of natural gas 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 of natural gas have occurred, the report must give the following details: (1) for imports, the country of origin; (2) for exports, the country of destination; (3) the point(s) of entry and exit; (4) the volume in thousand cubic feet (Mcf); (5) the average purchase price of gas per million British thermal units (MMBtu) at the international border; (6) the name of the supplier(s); (7) the name of the U.S. transporter(s); (8) the estimated or actual duration of the supply agreement(s); and (9) for imports, the geographic market(s) served (list State(s), U.S. Census Region(s), or general U.S. geographic area(s)).

(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, 2018, and should cover the reporting period from March 1, 2018, through March 31, 2018.

E. All monthly report filings shall be made to U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34), Division of Natural Gas Regulation, Office of Regulation and International Engagement, Office of Fossil Energy, P.O. Box 44375, Washington, D.C. 20026-4375, Attention: Natural Gas Reports. Alternatively, reports may be e-mailed to [ngreports@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ngreports@hq.doe.gov), or may be faxed to Natural Gas Reports (202) 586-6050.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 4, 2018.

---

Robert J. Smith  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oil and Natural Gas (Acting)