

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

VITOL INC.

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FE DOCKET NO. 19-10-NG
FE DOCKET NO. 18-80-NG

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

DOE/FE ORDER NOS. 4340
4215-A

FEBRUARY 13, 2019

I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On January 30, 2019, Vitol Inc. (Vitol) filed an application, which they amended via email on February 8, 2019, with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA)¹ for blanket authorization to import and export up to a combined total of 550 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from and to Canada and Mexico via pipeline.² The applicant requests the authorization be granted for a two-year term which began on January 1, 2019.³ Vitol is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Houston, Texas.

Previously, on July 24, 2018, Vitol was granted authorization in DOE/FE Order No. 4215 to import and export up to a combined total of 250 Bcf of natural gas from and to Mexico for a two-year term beginning on July 24, 2018, and extending through July 23, 2020.

On February 8, 2019, Vitol notified DOE/FE that it wished to consolidate its import and export authorities under this docket. Accordingly, Vitol has requested that DOE/FE vacate its authorization in DOE/FE Order No. 4215, effective January 1, 2019.⁴

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

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 FE in Redelelegation Order No. 00-006.02 issued on November 17, 2014.

² See email from Mandy Nordin, Vitol Inc. to DOE/FE (February 8, 2019).

³ Vitol's blanket authorization to import and export natural gas from and to Canada, granted in DOE/FE Order No. 3927 on November 14, 2016, extended through December 31, 2018.

⁴ See email from Mandy Nordin, Vitol Inc. to DOE/FE (February 8, 2019).

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 Vitol to import and export natural gas from and to Canada and Mexico, nations 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.

ORDER

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

A. Vitol is authorized to import and export up to a combined total of 550 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from and to Canada and Mexico, pursuant to transactions that have terms of no longer than two years. This authorization shall be effective for a two-year term which began on January 1, 2019, and extends through December 31, 2020.

B. This natural gas may be imported and exported by pipeline at any point on the border between the United States and Canada and 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, Vitol shall file with the Office of Regulation, Analysis, and 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 February 28, 2019, and should cover the reporting period from January 1, 2019 through January 31, 2019.

E. All monthly report filings shall be made to U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34), Division of Natural Gas Regulation, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and 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, or may be faxed to Natural Gas Reports (202) 586-6050.

F. Vitol's blanket authorization to import and export natural gas from and to Mexico, previously granted in DOE/FE Order No. 4215 on July 24, 2018, is hereby vacated effective January 1, 2019.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on February 13, 2019.

Amy R. Sweeney
Director, Division of Natural Gas Regulation