

PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT

FRASER PAPERS INC.

ORDER NO. PP-11-2

I. BACKGROUND

The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) has the responsibility for implementing Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038, which requires the issuance of Presidential permits for the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of electric transmission facilities at the United States international border.

On November 20, 1945, the Federal Power Commission¹ issued a Presidential permit in docket IT-5951 (now PP-11) to Fraser Paper, Inc., now Fraser Papers Inc. (Fraser), to construct two electric transmission lines between Fraser's pulp facility in Madawaska, Maine, and its paper making facility in Canada. One line was a three-phase, 6.6-kilovolt (kV) transmission line; the other line was a three-phase, 39.6-kV line. On July 31, 1996, in Presidential Permit PP-11-1, FE authorized Fraser to change the operating voltage of the 39.6kV line to 69-kV without making any physical changes to the transmission line itself.

On March 29, 1999, Fraser applied to FE to amend Presidential Permit PP-11-1. Fraser requested authorization to reductor the 69-kV transmission line to allow for eventual operation at 138-kV. However, the reducted facilities would continue to be operated at 69-kV.

The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense have concurred in the amendment of Fraser's Presidential permit.

II. FINDING

The subject facility does not constitute a major transmission interconnection, nor is the facility electrically integrated with the systems of either the United States or Canada. Therefore, DOE has determined that amending Fraser's existing Presidential permit by allow the reducting of the 69-kV transmission line would not impair the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

DOE also has determined that this action is among those classes of actions not normally requiring preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement and, therefore, is eligible for categorical exclusion under Appendix B to Subpart D, paragraph B4.6 of the revised DOE NEPA Guidelines. Specifically, this categorical exclusion is provided for additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the

¹Authority to issue Presidential permits was transferred from the Federal Power Commission to the Department of Energy by Executive Order No. 12038 on October 1, 1977.

environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

III. ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of EO 10485, as amended by EO 12038, and the Rules and Regulations issued thereunder (Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, section 205.320 et. seq.), Article 2 and Article 3 of the Presidential permit granted to Fraser and contained in FE Docket No. PP-11-1 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Article 2. The facilities covered by and subject to this permit shall include the following facilities and all supporting structures within the right-of-way occupied by such facilities:

- (a) one three-phase, 6.6 kV transmission line crossing the U.S.-Canada border at the town of Madawaska, Maine.
- (b) one three-phase, 138-kV electric transmission line crossing the U.S.-Canada border at the town of Madawaska, Maine.

These facilities are more specifically shown and described in the application filed in this docket.

Article 3. The facilities described in Article 2 above shall be designed and operated in accordance with the applicable criteria established by the Northeast Power Coordinating Council consistent with that of the North American Electric Reliability Council. Fraser shall notify DOE whenever the facilities authorized in Article 2(b) are energized at 138-kV.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on September 29, 1999.

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