

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

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HOUSTON PIPE LINE COMPANY LP )  
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FE DOCKET NO. 19-152-NG

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

DOE/FE ORDER NO. 4483

JANUARY 14, 2020

## I. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

On December 6, 2019, Houston Pipe Line Company LP (Houston Pipe Line Company) 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 a combined total of 600 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas from and to Mexico by pipeline. The applicant requests the authorization be granted for a two-year term beginning on March 1, 2020.<sup>2</sup> Houston Pipe Line Company 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 export arrangements meet 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 Company 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

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<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 Redefinition Order No. 00-002.04G issued on June 4, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Houston Pipe Line Company's blanket authorization to import and export natural gas from and to Mexico, granted in DOE/FE Order No. 4135 on January 4, 2018, extends through February 29, 2020.

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. Houston Pipe Line Company is authorized to import and export a combined total of 600 Bcf of natural gas from and to Mexico, 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 1, 2020, and extending through February 28, 2022.

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 Company 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 or exports have been made, a report of “no activity” for that month must be filed. If imports 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, 2020, and should cover the reporting period from March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

E. All monthly report filings on Form FE-746R shall be made to the U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34), Office of Fossil Energy, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement, according to the methods of submission listed on the Form FE-746R reporting instructions available at <https://www.energy.gov/fe/services/natural-gas-regulation>.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 14, 2020.

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Director, Office of Regulation, Analysis, and Engagement  
Office of Oil and Natural Gas