

Ohio 45061 or by calling the FCAB Office at (513) 648-6478.

Issued at Washington, DC on December 29, 1998.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Fossil Energy

[FE Docket No. 98-98-NG]

Boston Gas Company; Order Granting Long-Term Authorization To Import Natural Gas From Canada

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of order.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice that it issued DOE/FE Order No. 1445 (Order 1445) on December 17, 1998, granting Boston Gas Company (Boston Gas) authorization to import at Bailyville, Maine, up to 43,200 Mcf per day of natural gas from Canada for a period of eight years commencing November 1, 1999, through March 31, 2007. This gas will originate from natural gas fields off the east coast of Canada near Sable Island. The proposed Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline is the transportation facility that will deliver the gas from Nova Scotia to the United States pipeline grid in Massachusetts.

Boston Gas, a Massachusetts local distribution company, intends to use the imported gas, to be purchased from Imperial Oil Resources Limited (Imperial), as part of its supply portfolio. The import will replace western Canada gas supplies acquired from Imperial pursuant to DOE/FE Opinion and Order No. 552 (Order 552), issued November 27, 1991 (1 FE ¶ 70,503). Boston Gas requests Order 552 be terminated November 1, 1999, to coincide with the effective date of Order 1445.

Order 1445 may be found on the FE web site at <http://www.fe.doe.gov>, or on our electronic bulletin board at (202) 586-7853. It is also available for inspection and copying in the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import and Export Activities Docket Room, 3E-033, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0334, (202) 586-9478. The Docket Room is open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued in Washington, DC, December 22, 1998.

John W. Glynn,

Manager, Natural Gas Regulation, Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum, Import and Export Activities, Office of Fossil Energy.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Availability; Viability Assessment of a Repository at Yucca Mountain

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of a DOE report to Congress entitled *Viability Assessment of a Repository at Yucca Mountain*. The Viability Assessment is essentially a technical status report of the ongoing DOE scientific investigations concerning the potential for locating a geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. It brings together data drawn from 15 years of scientific investigation and design work at Yucca Mountain and identifies what the DOE has learned about the site and what it believes are the critical areas for additional investigation. Submission of this report to the President and the Congress was directed in the Fiscal Year 1997 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

ADDRESSES: Any written requests for information or copies of the *Viability Assessment of a Repository at Yucca Mountain* should be directed to:

Allen Benson,
Director, Institutional Affairs,
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office, M/S 523,

U.S. Department of Energy, 1261
Town Center Drive,
Las Vegas, NV 89134.

The *Viability Assessment of a Repository at Yucca Mountain* is available in both printed and CD ROM formats. Persons wishing to request copies or receive information by telephone should call 1-800-225-6972. Electronic requests for copies may be made on the Internet at: <http://www.ymp.gov/learn/order.htm>. Electronic copies of the Viability Assessment or DOE supporting documents are available for viewing and downloading on the Internet at <http://www.ymp.gov/va.htm>. Information to assist in locating non-DOE reference documents may also be obtained at that address. The *Viability Assessment of a*

Repository at Yucca Mountain may also be obtained at DOE Reading Rooms located at:

U.S. Department of Energy, 1141 S.
Highway 160 No. 3, Pahrump, NV
89048, 702-727-0896

U.S. Department of Energy, 100 North E
Avenue & State Route 374, Beatty, NV
89003, 702-553-2130

U.S. Department of Energy, 1000
Independence Ave, SW, Room 1E-
190, Washington, DC 20585
(Document viewing only, for copies
call 1-800-225-6972.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the *Viability Assessment of a Repository at Yucca Mountain* please contact: Allen Benson, Director of Institutional Affairs, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office, at the above address, by telephone at 1-800-225-6972, or by e-mail through our Website at <http://www.ymp.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Viability Assessment summarizes a large technical body of work from field investigations, laboratory tests, models, analyses, and engineering that is described in cited references. The Viability Assessment identifies the uncertainties relevant to the technical defensibility of the DOE analyses and designs, the approach to managing these uncertainties, the status of work toward the site recommendation and license application, plans for the remaining work, and the estimated costs of completing a license application and constructing and operating a repository.

The Viability Assessment is not intended to be a decision document, but rather, was developed as a program management tool and milestone. The Viability Assessment in no way constrains further DOE investigations. If new or different issues are identified in response to the Viability Assessment that are important to the evaluation of the suitability of the site, DOE will undertake any necessary investigation into those issues.

The Viability Assessment

In the Fiscal Year 1997 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act Congress required the DOE to produce a Viability Assessment of the work being done to characterize the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, approximately 100 miles from Las Vegas, Nevada. Congress stipulated that the Viability Assessment include:

“(1) the preliminary design concept for the critical elements for the repository and waste package;

(2) a total system performance assessment, based upon the design concept and the