

Following its first report, issued in March 1960, the Board with the approval of the Governor in Council issued the licences and certificates referred to in items (1) to (5) and denied the application of Niagara Gas Transmission Limited. This company subsequently made a new application, which was approved following a public hearing in May. Also in May the Board heard applications for new licences in respect of previously established gas exports from Canadian-Montana Pipe Line Company and Gordon M. Plotke; these were approved in June. To Sept. 1, 1960, the only other gas export application before the Board was an application by Texaco Exploration Company to export certain quantities of butane through the Trans Mountain oil pipeline for a short period in 1960 and 1961. This application was also approved.

In considering an application for a gas export licence, the Board is required to satisfy itself that the quantity of gas to be exported does not exceed the surplus remaining after due allowance has been made for the reasonably foreseeable requirements for use in Canada having regard to the trends in the discovery of gas in Canada, and that the price to be charged by an applicant for gas exported by him is just and reasonable in relation to the public interest. Before the Board could dispose of any of these gas export licence applications, it had therefore to estimate the actual and prospective reserves of gas in Canada and the probable demand in Canada for gas, in order to arrive at an estimate of the surplus available for export. Then the Board must examine the economics of each project in detail.

In respect of oil pipelines the only application heard by the Board was that of Inter-provincial Oil Pipe Line Company for a certificate authorizing the construction of certain new pump stations and additional pumping capacity at existing stations on its pipeline. This application was heard in May and approved in June.

Under the transitional provisions of the Act, licences for the export of power issued under the Exportation of Power and Fluids and Importation of Gas Act are deemed to have been issued under the National Energy Board Act. By the amendment to the National Energy Board Act previously mentioned, such licences, which would normally have expired on Mar. 31, 1960 were extended to Dec. 31, 1961 unless replaced before that time by a licence under the new Act. In order to deal promptly with the gas export applications awaiting its attention, the Board necessarily deferred hearings on the electric power applications, which involve some 10 licensees across Canada, and is arranging hearings to deal with them at intervals from October 1960 through March 1961.

As part of the transition from the old statutes to the new, the Board is required to issue certificates of public convenience and necessity to oil and gas pipeline companies which had received from the Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada leave to construct facilities under the Pipe Lines Act. The issuance of such certificates is proceeding as the facilities built or authorized are defined in each case.

Leave of the Board is required under Sect. 76 of the Act before a pipeline under its jurisdiction can be carried across certain utilities, and is also required under Sect. 77 before a highway, private road, railway, irrigation ditch, drain, telegraph or telephone line or a line for the transmission of hydrocarbons, power or any other substance may be carried across a pipeline. To Sept. 1, 1960, the Board had issued 103 orders in respect of such crossings.

In respect of its advisory functions, the Board early in its activities made arrangements for a co-operative study of Canada's energy requirements. Under these arrangements the Dominion Coal Board undertook in close association with the Board to carry out a historical study of the uses of energy in Canada from 1945 to 1958 and to estimate the probable uses of different forms of energy in the various provinces of Canada for the years 1965, 1975 and 1985. A forecast of the use of gas was carried out by staff lent to the Board from the Department of Trade and Commerce, in co-operation with officials from the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Consultations on the improvement of statistics relating to energy were held with officials of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which will continue to be the principal source of such statistics, with the Board co-operating in and supplementing the work of the Bureau as may be agreed from time to time.