

Feb. 1, 1999

Mr. Robert F. Smallcomb, Jr.
Director, Pipeline Engineering and Safety Division Massachusetts Department of
Telecommunications & Energy 100 Cambridge St., 12th floor
Boston, MA 02202

Dear Mr. Smallcomb:

We have considered your letter of December 3, 1998, notifying us that the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications & Energy has granted the Boston Gas Company a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.321(a) for plastic pipe across a bridge on Medway Street in Milton, Massachusetts. The waiver will permit the installation of 81 feet of 6-inch plastic pipe above ground inside an 8-inch welded steel casing across the bridge. The steel-encased plastic pipe will be protected against mechanical damage and ultraviolet radiation, and meet all stress limits applicable to plastic pipe.

We have no objection to the waiver. The circumstances are comparable to those of previous waivers we have approved permitting the installation of plastic pipe above ground on bridges.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Felder
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety