DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. P–91–2W; Notice 2]

Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline, Grant of Waiver; ANR Pipeline Co.

ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) petitioned the Research and Special Programs Administration for a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.611(c), which requires confirmation or revision of the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) within 18 months of a change in class location. ANR determined that, effective June 14, 1990, the class location for the 22-inch Southwest Mainline and 30-inch Southwest Mainline Loop between mileposts 883.35 and 884.55, Porter County, Indiana, changed from [c]lass Location 2 to Class Location 3. Such [c]lass [l]ocation change determination was made pursuant to a study required by §192.609 due to an increase in population density. Absent a waiver, ANR would be required, on December 14, 1991, to either (1) reduce MAOP on the lines from 850 psig to 709 psig and 715 psig for the 22-inch and 30-inch lines, respectively, or (2) replace the lines with pipe designed and constructed requirement for a 102 month period ending November 1, 1992.

The waiver would allow ANR to maintain throughput pending replacement of both the 22-inch and 30-inch pipelines concurrent with the installation of a new 42-inch Second Mainline loop of the same segment of their pipeline system. ANR filed a certificate application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on March 21, 1991, seeking approval to construct the Second Mainline Loop (Docket No. CP91-1616). ANR estimates construction of the three pipelines should be complete by November 1, 1992, assuming timely receipt of FERC approval. Further, ANR states that, without the waiver, they must complete construction replacement of the two existing lines in September 1991 to avoid disruption of service to customers.

In response to the petition, and the justification contained therein, RSPA issued a Notice of Petition for Waiver inviting interested parties to comment (Notice 1) (56 FR 30412; July 2, 1991). In that notice, RSPA explained why

granting a waiver from 49 CFR 192.611(c) for a 102 month period to allow the operator sufficient time to install new pipelines in a single construction period would not affect safety.

Comments were received from two pipeline operators. Each operator endorsed the petition and recommended granting the waiver.

In accordance with the foregoing, RSPA, by this order, finds that compliance with §192.611(c) is unnecessary for the reasons stated in the Notice of Petition for Waiver (56 FR 30412; July 2, 1991), and that the requested waiver would not be inconsistent with pipeline safety. Accordingly ANR Pipeline Company's petition for waiver from compliance with §192.611(c) is granted for the period beginning December 14, 1991, and ending November 1, 1992.

Issued in Washington, DC on August 8, 1991.

George W. Tenley, Jr.,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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