

**DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**Office of Pipeline Safety Operations**

[Docket No. 77-1W, Notice 1]

**COLUMBIA GULF  
TRANSMISSION CO.**

**Grant of Waiver from Federal Gas  
Pipeline Safety Standards**

By telegram dated February 8, 1977, the Columbia Gulf Transmission Company made the following request for waivers from compliance with the Federal gas pipeline safety standards in 49 CFR 192.611(e)(2).

In compliance with Subpart 192.611 of the Federal minimum Federal safety standards for gas lines (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations) Columbia Gulf had scheduled the replacement in March, 1977 of approximately 9,561 feet of 30" O.D. pipe in Davidson County, Tennessee. In replacing said pipe there would be an irretrievable loss of approximately 6,000 MCF when the pipe is evacuated and an increase in compressor fuel consumption of approximately 26,500 MCF while the section of pipe is out of service.

As you are aware this winter has been severe in the market area served by Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation, our sister company and the company for which we transport gas. The loss of the above gas, at this time, will only increase this curtailments now being applied by Columbia Gas Transmission. You may also be aware that such curtailments are getting dangerously close to priority 1 customers (domestic customers, etc.).

In order to comply with Subpart 192.611-E2 [sic], the scheduled changeout would have to be made by the middle of April. In view of the conditions described above, Columbia Gulf requests an extension to July 1, 1977, of the time in which to make the above described changeout and a waiver of the prohibition of operating the presently installed pipe in excess of the requirements stated in Subpart 192.609 of the standards.

Section 192.611(e)(2) provides:

Confirmation or revision due to changes in class location that occur on or after July 1, 1973, must be completed within 18 months of the change in class location.

The Company has further stated in subsequent communications with the Office of Pipeline Safety Operations (OPSO) that three pipelines, identified as Nos. 100, 200, and 300, are involved in the waiver request. The lines are presently in Class 3 locations, as defined in 49 CFR 192.5; were installed in 1953, 1955, and 1971, respectively; have been hydrostatically tested to yield strength; have been coated and cathodically protected; and do not evidence any leakage or deterioration. Also, according to the Company, any reduction in the maximum allowable operating pressure for the existing pipelines to comply with 49 CFR 192.611(e)(2) would result in a substantial reduction in gas flow.

In addition, the Company has indicated that replacement would take about six weeks of field work and another period of several weeks more to hire a contractor. The advance planning for replacement was curtailed due to the need to maintain available gas supplies.

In consideration of (1) the operating condition of the pipeline; (2) the need for additional time to confirm or revise the maximum allowable operating pressure of the lines under §192.611(e)(2) if approximately 32.5 MCF of gas are to remain available for distribution; and (3) the President's declaration of a National Gas Emergency (42 FR 6789), I find that the requested waiver would not be inconsistent with gas pipeline safety and that it would be in the public interest. Therefore, effective April 1, 1977, the requested waiver is hereby granted until July 1, 1977, subject to the following condition:

The Company must notify OPSO before April 1, 1977, of its plans and schedule to effect the required replacement by July 1, 1977.

Section 3(e) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 USC 1672(e)) authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to grant waivers from compliance with the Federal gas pipeline safety standards. Sec 3(d) of the Act further provides that Subchapter II of Chapter 5 of Title 5 of the United States Code shall apply to all orders "waiving compliance with any standard established

under this Act." Therefore, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(b), in view of the present gas emergency, the need for a waiver, and the shortness of time, notice and public procedure on the granting of this waiver would be contrary to the public interest.

Nevertheless, this waiver will be reconsidered upon the receipt of relevant information, views, or arguments submitted in triplicate to the Director, Office of Pipeline Safety Operations, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590, before February 25, 1977.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on February 16, 1977.

JAMES T. CURTIS, Jr.,  
*Director,*  
*Materials Transportation Bureau.*

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