

**DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs  
Administration**

[Docket No. 83-1W; Notice 2]

**Transportation of Natural and Other  
Gas by Pipeline; Grant of Waiver**

The Florida Gas Transmission Company petitioned the Materials Transportation Bureau (MTB) for a waiver from compliance with the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611(e)(2) to permit the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) to temporarily continue at 975 psig (72 percent of specified minimum yield strength) (SMYS) for a 4,900-foot section of its 24-inch gas transmission pipeline between MP 679.50 and MP 680.43. The area in which this segment of pipeline is located became a Class 3 location in May 1982, due to the added development of the Pepper Mill Subdivision in Orange County, Florida. Under §192.611(e)(2), the company has 18 months from that date to confirm or revise the MAOP commensurate with the new class location.

In accordance with an application recently given final approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Docket No. CP74-192, this segment of pipeline is to be converted to liquid petroleum product service, which would make the line subject to Part 195 rather than Part 192. Conversion to liquid service is expected to commence by December 31, 1986. As a result, this segment will need to continue in natural gas service for approximately 3 years after the time has expired for confirmation or revision of the MAOP in accordance with §192.611(e)(2).

The pipeline was designed for an operating pressure of 975 psig in a Class 1 location. It was tested to 91 percent SMYS (1,230 psig) for a period of 8 hours. The pipeline has been under cathodic protection since original installation in 1959. The operating history of this segment shows there have been no leaks or failures and that the actual maximum operating pressure at the subdivision location has been 950 psig (70 percent SMYS). The replacement that would be required to comply with §192.611(e)(2) will cost an estimated \$500,000. This reconstruction would be unnecessary under Part 195 because liquid pipelines may operate at 72 percent of SMYS.

In response to this petition for waiver, MTB issued a notice of a petition for waiver inviting interested persons to comment (48 FR 36050, August 8, 1983). In this notice, MTB stated that considering the design, operating, and maintenance history, previous testing of the segment of pipeline, and the pending conversion of the pipeline to liquid service, a waiver of §192.611(e)(2) is justified to permit continued operation of the 4,900 feet of the Florida Gas Transmission Company pipeline between MP 679.50 and MP 680.43 with a design factor of 0.72. MTB proposed to grant such a waiver until such time as this line is taken out of gas service or December 31, 1986, whichever is earlier.

Section 192.611(e)(2) is intended to minimize the possibility of catastrophic pipeline failure in populous areas. Therefore, to help reduce this risk before conversion occurs, a condition of the waiver would be that the hydrostatic pressure test that is required under Part 195, §195.5(a)(4), for conversion of this segment of pipeline to liquid service shall be done prior to the date that confirmation or revision of the MAOP would otherwise be required under §192.611(e)(2).

Three comments were received in response to the invitation to comment. All supported the granting of the waiver as proposed by MTB, particularly with the condition that the additional hydrostatic pressure test be conducted as proposed.

In consideration of the foregoing, MTB, by this order, finds that compliance with §192.611(e)(2) is unnecessary for the reasons set forth in Notice 1, and that the requested waiver would not be inconsistent with pipeline safety. Accordingly, effective immediately, Florida Gas Transmission Company is granted a waiver from compliance with §192.611(e)(2) regarding the segment of pipeline discussed above between MP 679.50 and MP 680.43 to permit continued operation with a design factor of 0.72 until such time as the line is taken out of gas service or December 31, 1986, whichever is earlier. The waiver is contingent upon the segment of pipeline being hydrostatically tested as described above.

(49 U.S.C. 1672; 49 CFR 1.53(a); Appendix A of Part 1 and Appendix A of Part 106)

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