

**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. 85-6W; Notice 1]

THE INTERNATIONAL PAPER CO.

Pipeline Safety Waiver

The International Paper Company ("IPCO") has requested a waiver from the coating provisions of 49 CFR 192.455(a)(1) for a segment (200 feet) of the Natchez Pipeline location in a crossing of the Mississippi River.

The petition describes the Natchez Pipeline as owned and operated by IPCO to transport purchased gas from a Chevron gas processing plant in Tensas Parish, Louisiana, some 17.8 miles, crossing the Mississippi River, to Natchez, Mississippi, where the gas is consumed in IPCO's pulp processing mill. IPCO has applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which has jurisdiction over the Natchez Pipeline, for permission to connect the Natchez pipeline to a pipeline of the Southern Natural Gas Company and to a new well owned by Exxon. According to further information provided by IPCO, the Natchez Pipeline consists of Grade B pipe 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch O.D., with wall thickness of .250, .344, and .432 inch. It currently transports at least 1 MMcfd at 100 psi and, after connection to the new sources, may carry up to 11 MMcfd at 650 psi.

As justification of the waiver IPCO offered the following:

In 1983 the segment of the Natchez pipeline crossing under the Mississippi River was completely severed at a weld. Upon inspection, it was discovered that because of shifts in the river bottom, a significant portion of the pipeline was no longer covered by the riverbed. The break in the pipeline was apparently caused by a tree or some other drift material that was caught in the current and had lodged and pushed against the exposed [sic] line.

By way of repair, 40 feet of the line was replaced with ASTM A-106 Grade B pipe and 160 feet with ASTM A-53 Grade B pipe, the exposed pipe was buried beneath the riverbed, and Rip-Rap over mats were placed on top of the newly buried pipeline. The newly installed pipe, however, was uncoated, as

had been the pipe that was replaced. IPCO personnel involved in the repairs were unaware that any federal pipeline safety standards might apply to the repair.

Because the pipeline is beneath the riverbed and Rip-Rap, it is estimated that to raise, coat, and reinstall the pipe replaced in 1983 would cost in excess of \$1,000,000. The line can be cathodically protected at significantly less expense.

Coating the line replaced in 1983 would not measurably add to the pipeline's safety. Much of the protection against corrosion that coating provides can be attained through cathodic protection, which IPCO will install (and which is substantially less expensive). Further, the hazards associated with raising the line to coat the new segments may more than offset any improvement in safety.

In addition, as discussed above, raising, coating, and reinstalling the replaced pipeline would be prohibitively expensive, costing in excess of \$1 million, or over \$5,000 per foot of pipeline. The marginal (if any) improvement in safety from coating the pipeline simply does not justify an expense of this magnitude.

With certain exceptions, each buried or submerged metallic gas pipeline installed after July 31, 1971, must be protected against external corrosion by an external coating (§192.455(a)(1)) and by a cathodic protection system (§192.455(a)(2)). These requirements were adopted from the National Association of Corrosion Engineers Standard RP-01-69, which was based on industry experience in obtaining the most efficient external corrosion protection for pipelines. However, cathodic protection alone can provide adequate external corrosion protection, although at higher cost if additional electrical power is needed. The absence of coating should not affect the ability of a properly designed cathodic protection system to meet the criteria in Appendix D of Part 192 and thus provide adequate external corrosion control.

Therefore, RSPA is considering granting IPCO a waiver from the coating requirements of §192.455(a)(1) as requested, because adequate corrosion control can be provided by cathodic protection alone, the segment of pipeline involved is located in the Mississippi River where a leak would present a small risk to the public, and compliance with the coating rule at this stage would entail undue costs and possibly create construc-

tion defects due to the difficult working conditions around this underwater pipeline.

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed waiver by submitting in triplicate such data, views or arguments as they may desire. Communications should identify the Docket and Notice numbers and be submitted to Dockets Branch, Room 8426, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590.

All comments received before November 29, 1985, will be considered before final action is taken. Late filed comments will be considered so far as practicable. All comments will be available for inspection at the Dockets Branch, Research and Special Programs Administration between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., before and after the closing date for comments. No public hearing is contemplated, but one may be held at a time and place set in a Notice in the **Federal Register** if requested by an interested person desiring to comment at a public hearing and raising a genuine issue.

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

Issued in Washington, D.C. on October 25, 1985.

Lucian M. Furrow,
*Acting Associate Director for Pipeline Safety
Regulation, Materials Transportation Bureau.*

[FR Doc. 85-25851 Filed 10-29-85; 8:45 am]

**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION****Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. 85-6W; Notice 2]

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

The International Paper Company (IPCO) has petitioned the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) for a waiver from compliance with the coating provisions of 49 CFR §192.455(a)(1) for a segment (200 feet) of the 6-inch diameter Natchez Pipeline located in a crossing of the Mississippi River near Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi.

In response to this petition, RSPA issued a Notice of a Petition for Waiver inviting interested persons to comment (Notice 1; 50 FR 45186, October 30, 1985). In this notice RSPA explained why granting IPCO a waiver from §192.455(a)(1) to permit operating the pipeline segment without the required pipe coating would not affect safety.

No comments were received in response to this notice.

In consideration of the foregoing, RSPA by this order finds that compliance with §192.455(a)(1) 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, the International Paper Company is granted a waiver from compliance with the coating requirements of §192.455(a)(1) for the 200 feet of pipeline discussed above.

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

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 13, 1986.

Robert L. Paullin,

Director, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration.

[FR Doc. 86-1018 Filed 1-15-86; 8:45 am]