

**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. 84-6W; Notice 1]

**Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co.; Waiver
of Requirement to Bury Plastic Pipe**

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, a Division of Tenneco Inc., (Tennessee) proposes to lay approximately 3.75 miles of one 3-inch or two 2-inch plastic pipelines to serve the town of Provencal, Louisiana, temporarily while the regulator service tap is out of service. By a letter-petition dated September 13, 1984, Tennessee requests that the Office of Pipeline Safety Regulation (OPSR) grant a temporary waiver to Tennessee from the burial requirement of 49 CFR 192.321(a) to allow the installation of this temporary plastic pipe above ground. The relevant facts, as set forth in the petition, are repeated hereinafter:

In order to facilitate hydrostatic testing of its 500-1 pipeline in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, to accommodate a class location change, Tennessee must take the portion between Main Line Valve (MLV) 500-1 and MLV 501-1 out of service. The town of Provencal, Louisiana, is served from a tap on this valve section approximately 3.75 miles north of MLV 501-1. The 20-inch 500-1 line runs roughly south from Compressor Station 40 near Natchitoches, Louisiana, to Compressor Station 823 near Kinder, Louisiana.

It is anticipated that the valve section will be out of service for 1 to 2 weeks, and some means of supplying gas during this period to the town of Provencal must be provided. The alternatives available are: (1) To lay a temporary pipeline (either steel or plastic pipe) from the pressured blowoff south of MLV 501-1 3.75 miles to the present sales meter station, or (2) supplying the town from tank trucks containing either compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquefied natural gas (LNG). Tennessee considers all of these alternatives, if properly executed,

equally safe in a broad context.

The approximate costs of these alternatives are:

Plastic Pipeline	¹ \$10,000
Steel Pipeline	¹ \$85,000
CNG	50,000
LNG	² 50,000-100,000

¹ Includes installation and removal.

² Depending on location and availability.

The plastic pipeline is easily the most attractive alternative and can be accomplished the quickest.

Therefore, Tennessee proposes to install approximately 3.75 miles of dual 2-inch or a single 3-inch plastic pipe, above ground, from a point near its MLV 501-1 to the present point of delivery to the town of Provencal, Louisiana. The pipe will be designated, installed, tested, operated, and maintained in accordance with 49 CFR Part 192, except for §192.321(a). The operating pressure will be 80 psig. In addition to the requirements of 49 CFR Part 192, Tennessee will install temporary markers along the plastic pipeline at intervals of approximately 100 yards and patrol the pipeline twice a week, but at intervals no greater than 5 days, while it is in service. Tennessee believes that the requirement of §192.321(e) (locator wire) is not applicable since the pipe will not be underground.

The plastic pipeline will be laid on the right-of-way of Tennessee's 500-1 line and its entire length will be in remote, rolling, wooded terrain. There are no road crossings or agricultural activities along this right-of-way. There are no buildings along this portion of the 500-1 line and part of it is in the Kisatchie National Forest. It is anticipated that the plastic pipe will not be subjected to excess temperature due to solar radiation as the gas entering the pipe will be very cool, being at ground temperature in the 20-inch pipe and will have a significant drop in temperature due to pressure reduction from 400-500 psig to 80 psig.

The hydrostatic test is scheduled for late October or early November 1984 and Tennessee requested that this Application

for Waiver be considered expeditiously, and be granted by October 22, 1984.

In consideration of the foregoing, OPSR decided to grant the waiver primarily because the purpose of burying plastic pipe is to avoid long-term degradation of the plastic due to ultra-violet exposure, and the line will be in service for less than a month. Also, it appears from the pipeline's location and additional safety precautions to be conducted by Tennessee that this installation will involve no threat to the safety of the general public or Tennessee employees.

Section 3(d) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1672(d)), authorizes waivers from compliance with the Federal gas pipeline safety standards after notice and opportunity for hearing. Section 3(c) further provides that the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5 of Title 5 of the United States Code shall apply to all actions waiving compliance with any standard. Therefore, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(b), in view of the need for a waiver, the absence of a significant safety issue, and the brief time involved, prior notice and public procedure on the granting of this waiver would not be in the public interest.

Accordingly, by this order, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company is hereby granted a temporary waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.321(a) with regard to either one 3-inch or two 2-inch plastic pipelines described above. The waiver is effective immediately and terminates 30 days after the pipeline or pipelines are placed in service.

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

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