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**DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**
**Research and Special Programs Ad-  
ministration**
**[Docket No. P-95-1W; Notice 2]**

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.; Transporta-  
tion of Hazardous Liquid by Pipeline,  
Grant of Waiver

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**SUMMARY:** Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska) is being granted a waiver by the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) which will amend the August 16, 1975, waiver (Docket No. Pet. 75-13W) from compliance with the coating and cathodic protection requirements of 49 CFR 195.238(a)(5) and 195.242(a) for buried pump station and terminal insulated piping.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 29, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT:**

L.E. Herrick, 202-366-5523 regarding the subject matter of this notice or the Dockets Branch, 202-366-5046, regarding copies of this notice or other material that is referenced herein.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

On June 7, 1995, RSPA published a notice in the Federal Register (60 FR 30153, June 7, 1995) proposing to issue a waiver to Alyeska amending the existing waiver covering procedures for thermally insulated pump station and terminal piping. Public comment on the proposal was requested. No comments were received. Therefore, RSPA is granting the waiver as proposed.

**Background**

By letter dated November 24, 1975, Alyeska requested a waiver from compliance with the coating and cathodic protection requirements of 49 CFR 195.238(a)(5) and 195.242(a) for thermally insulated pump station and terminal piping on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). 49 CFR 195.238(a)(5) requires that each component in a hazardous liquid pipeline that is to be buried or submerged must have an external protective coating that supports any supplemental cathodic protection. In addition, if an insulating-type coating is used, it must have low moisture absorption and provide high electrical resistance. 49 CFR 195.242(a)

requires that a cathodic protection system be installed for all buried or submerged hazardous liquid facilities to mitigate corrosion that might result in structural failure.

RSPA granted Alyeska this waiver on August 16, 1976, (Docket No. Pet. 75-13W) on the premise that the applied thermal insulation design would provide an equal level of corrosion protection. However, subsequent inspections of the insulated piping revealed that the annular insulation system has not been sufficiently effective in preventing external corrosion on portions of the buried piping.

Alyeska estimates 14,500 linear feet of piping was originally installed subject to the 1976 waiver. To date, Alyeska has rerouted approximately 11,000 linear feet of above-ground piping or installed cathodic protection with a design meeting the requirements of 195.238(a)(5) and 195.242(a). In general, this rerouting or repair was in areas with the greatest corrosion. For the remaining approximately 3,500 feet of below-ground insulated piping, RSPA will prohibit any further use of the thermal insulation design installed during original construction of the pipeline and to amend the waiver on the existing insulated piping with the following stipulations:

1. At Pump Station No. 1. Alyeska will install in 1995, an insulated box containing cathodic protection on approximately 450 feet of 48-inch mainline piping and will complete tie-in of the 2-inch fuel gas separator drain line. This will complete the installation of cathodic protection for all active piping at Pump Station No. 1 that is subject to 49 CFR 195.

2. At Pump Station No. 2. Alyeska will conduct annual sample inspections of approximately 220 feet of piping for injurious corrosion and will repair as required until Pump Station No. 2 is removed from service.

3. At Pump Station No. 5. The piping subject to this amendment is approximately 1,490 feet. Alyeska will either:

A. Install insulated boxes containing cathodic protection or move the piping above-ground by December 31, 1996, or;

B. If Alyeska determines by September 1995 that Pump Station No. 5 will be removed from service prior to December

31, 1999, Alyeska will continue to perform annual sample inspections for corrosion and repair as required until Pump Station No. 5 is removed from service.

4. At the North Pole Meter Station. The North Pole Meter Station piping subject to this amendment and extension is approximately 560 feet between the 48-inch mainline and the meter building. Alyeska will either:

A. Conduct sample inspections for corrosion in 1995 and provide cathodic protection to the existing 8-inch crude supply and 6-inch residuum return piping by December 31, 1996; or

B. Upgrade the meter station connection and replace with new larger diameter piping meeting 49 CFR Part 195 requirements by December 31, 1996.

5. At transition piping at pump stations and at the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT). The above-ground insulated piping that transitions to below-ground non-insulated piping occurs at the seven non-permafrost stations (Pump Stations No. 4 and Nos. 7-12) and the VMT. Typical repairs consist of removal of the below-ground insulation and coating, followed by replacement of the coating and the outer mechanical protective layer. Alyeska will repair and complete inspections of ten percent of the insulated transitions at each of the affected pump stations and at VMT by the end of 1995.

Inspections of ten percent of the transitions were completed at Pump Stations 4, 9, and 12 in 1994 with the following results: At PS-4, two transitions inspected with no corrosion; at PS-9, three transitions inspected, two with no corrosion and one with slight corrosion with a .065 inch pit; and at PS-12, three transitions inspected with no corrosion at two locations and less than .030 inch pitting at the other location. A total of five transitions were inspected at the VMT in 1994 (a total of five per cent) with no corrosion found at any location.

In 1995, Alyeska will conduct inspections of ten percent of the transitions at Pump Stations Nos. 7, 8, 10, and 11 and an additional five transitions at the VMT. Alyeska will continue an inspection and repair program based on the results of these and future inspections. Transition piping subject to this amendment is approximately 800 feet.

For the purpose of this amendment, sample inspect or sample inspection means to excavate and expose a portion of a line segment, typically 3 to 20 feet in length, for the purpose of visual examination and measurement of corrosion. Portions of pipe segments with no external inspection history will be given priority. The reinspection frequency will be based on the severity of the corrosion found, line service, and pipe accessibility. The maximum interval for sample inspection will not exceed five years.

Injurious corrosion means corrosion to the extent that replacement or repair is required as determined by 49 CFR 195.416(h). Repair means structural repair of piping and/or coating repairs.

In view of these reasons and those stated in the foregoing discussion, RSPA, by this order, finds that a waiver of compliance with 49 CFR 195.238(a)(5) and 195.242(a) is consistent with pipeline safety. Accordingly, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company's petition from compliance with the above stipulations is hereby granted.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on August 23, 1995.

**Richard B. Felder,**  
*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

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