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

[Docket No. 89-2W; Notice 2]

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

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee) petitioned the Office of Pipeline Safety for a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.553(d), which prohibits, when uprating a pipeline, the establishment of a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) greater than would be permitted for a new pipeline segment constructed of the same materials in the same location. To accommodate additional gas from TransCanada Pipelines, Ltd., Tennessee requested a waiver to permit the MAOP of eight pipeline segments to be uprated from 760 to 877 psig. The eight segments are all in Class 3 locations, which are generally characterized as areas with 46 or more occupied buildings per mile of pipeline (see §192.5). The segments are located in Erie and Niagara Counties, New York, and range from 241 to 3,274 feet in length. They are shown on drawings TO-E11-230B-100-2A, 3, 3A, 5, and 8, which are available in the docket.

The eight segments are part of Tennessee's 20-inch Niagara Spur, which began operation in 1959. The MAOP of the Niagara Spur is 760 psig, established in 1970 under §192.619. In 1987 the entire pipeline was hydrostatically tested to slightly more than 90 percent of the specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) of the pipe. This test and certain other steps made all but the eight segments of the line eligible for operation at 877 psig. Because they were in Class 3 locations, §192.553(d) precluded operation of the eight segments at 877 psig. Since the 1987 pressure test, two additional segments have changed to Class 3, but because they had previously been tested to more than 90 percent of SMYS and were eligible to operate at 877 psig, under §192.611(a) they may operate at that pressure.

In response to this petition, the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) issued Notice 1 of this proceeding, proposing to grant the requested waiver and inviting interested parties to comment (54 FR 26001; May 9, 1989). In that notice, OPS explained

that granting the waiver would not affect safety because the eight Class 3 segments are not materially different with respect to design, construction, test, operation, maintenance, and leak history from the two other Class 3 segments that may operate at 877 psig.

Comments were received from seven pipeline operators and one industry trade association, each of whom endorsed the petition and recommended granting the waiver.

For the reasons set forth above and in Notice 1 of this proceeding, OPS, by this order, finds that granting the requested waiver would not be inconsistent with gas pipeline safety. Accordingly, effective immediately, Tennessee is granted a waiver from compliance with §192.553(d) regarding the eight segments of the Niagara Spur described above for the purpose of uprating to 877 psig.

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

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 30, 1989.

Richard L. Beam,
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 89-15989 Filed 7-6-89; 8:45 am]