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

[Docket No. P-90-5W; Notice 1]

**Transportation of Natural and Other
Gas by Pipeline; Petition for Waiver
by Texas Gas Transmission Corp.**

Texas Gas Transmission Corporation (Texas Gas) has petitioned the Research and Special Programs Administration for a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.179(a)(2), which requires each point on the pipeline in a Class 3 location to be within 4 miles of a sectionalizing block valve. Texas Gas is adding a 13.06-mile section of 36-inch outside diameter loop line along its existing main line system in Jefferson County, Kentucky and seeks permission to align placement of valves on the new 36-inch line concurrent with valves on two existing 26-inch lines.

The 3 existing valve sites (BV-55A, BV-56, and BV-56A) are shown on Emergency Response Location Drawing Nos. SK-871-PL, SK-872-PL and SK-873-PL which are available in the Docket. Two proposed sites for the new line at the 579.41 (BV-56) and 588.28 (BV-56A) mile locations require a waiver because between them they contain a 0.87-mile section of pipeline that is more than 4 miles from a valve (between the 583.41 and 584.28 mile points) as required by the Class 3 location regulation. The BV-56 valve site is in a Class 3 location and is surrounded by a trailer park. The BV-56A site is within a Class 1 area. Class 3 locations are characterized (see 49 CFR 192.5 for class location definitions) as areas with 46 or more buildings per mile of pipeline. Class 1 locations have 10 or less buildings within the prescribed area. The 13.06-mile section of new construction is located within Class Locations 1, 2, and 3 and includes farmland, single-family housing areas, and urban development.

In preparing justification for a waiver, Texas Gas conducted an exercise wherein they dispatched crews from the Jeffersontown Compressor Station to potential valve sites along the pipeline. The purpose was to determine expected response time if emergency shut-in of a section of pipeline were needed. They reported that, dependent upon the location of the cause of the emergency, driving time to the sites required by the regu-

lation exceeded that to Texas Gas' proposed sites by 3 to 16 minutes and required 2 to 4 more response employees due to the increased number of sites. The public could be subject to exposure from escaping gas the additional response time. We believe the company finding seems reasonable.

Strict adherence to the regulation would require Texas Gas to locate valves at the 575.71 and 583.71 mile markers. The 575.71 mile marker is located in a small area between 2 public roads that is insufficient in size for a block valve location. Furthermore, the area along the pipeline route in an easterly direction from the site is zoned for subdivision development. Relocating the site in a westerly direction would violate the 4-mile limit established in the regulation. The other regulation site, at the 583.71 mile location, borders on an existing subdivision. Although constructing a valve site in a subdivision might not endanger the residents, it would require additional land disturbance and expose residential areas to irritating loud noises if a blow-down became necessary. Photographs of existing and potential sites are available in the Docket.

Texas Gas estimates that, if an emergency occurs along the 13.06-mile section of line, deliveries to consumers would be diminished by 72.2 to 171.3 mmcf gas per day due to reduced system flexibility if valves are installed at the sites required by regulation rather than at existing sites. If such an emergency situation occurs and a section of line is shut-in, the Company can cross-connect the remaining lines and maintain the higher delivery level if the valves are located adjacent to the valves at existing sites. The option to cross-connect is not available at the site required by regulation.

Texas Gas estimates an additional cost of approximately \$281,000 to complete the construction of facilities under their proposal compared to constructing the required sites. The additional cost occurs as a result of the additional cross-over valves and piping at the BV-56 and BV-56A sites. Texas Gas justifies the increased expenditure on the basis of a greater degree of public convenience and safety.

Because the proposed valve placement coincides with existing valves currently qualified to operate on the pipelines adjacent to the proposed line, it seems reasonable to waive the require-

ments of §192.179(a)(2) for the new line. There is no reason to anticipate a lesser level of safe performance for the proposed line than for the existing lines. Granting the waiver would provide uniform treatment for this section of line take as a unit. There does not appear to be any additional risks to the population in proximity to the line. In view of these reasons, and those stated in the foregoing discussion, RSPA proposes to grant the waiver.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed waiver by submitting in duplicate such data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments should identify the Docket and Notice numbers and be submitted to the Dockets Unit, room 8417, Research and Special Programs Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.

All comments received before April 1, 1991 will be considered before final action is taken. Late filed comments will be considered so far as practicable. All comments and other docketed material will be available for inspection and copying in room 8419 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. before and after the closing date. 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.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 26, 1991.

George W. Tenley, Jr.,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. P-90-5W; Notice 2]

**Texas Gas Transmission Corporation;
Transportation of Natural and Other
Gas by Pipeline, Grant of Waiver**

Texas Gas Transmission Corporation (Texas Gas) petitioned the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) for a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.179(a)(2), which requires each point on the pipeline in a Class 3 location to be within 4 miles of a sectionalizing block valve. Texas Gas is adding a 13.06-mile section of 36-inch outside diameter loop line along its existing main line system in Jefferson County, Kentucky, and seeks permission to align placement of valves on the new 36-inch line concurrent with valves on two existing 26-inch lines. The 13.06 mile section of new construction extends across Class 1, 2, and 3 Locations and includes farmland, single-family housing areas, and urban development.

The 3 existing valve sites (BV-55A, BV-56, and BV-56A) are shown on Emergency Response Location Drawing Nos. SK-871-PL, SK-872-PL, and SK-873-PL, which are available in the Docket. Two proposed sites for the new line, the 579.41 (BV-56) and 588.28 (BV-56A) mile locations, require a waiver because from point to point there is a 0.87 mile section of pipeline that is more than 4 miles from a valve (between the 583.41 and 584.28 mile points) as required by the Class 3 location regulation. The BV-56 valve site is in a Class 3 location and is surrounded by a trailer park. Class 3 locations are characterized as areas with 46 or more buildings per mile of pipeline. The BV-56A site is within a Class 1 area. Class 1 locations have 10 or less buildings within the prescribed area. (See 49 CFR 192.5 for class location definitions.)

In response to this petition, and the justification contained therein, RSPA issued a Notice of Petition for Waiver inviting interested parties to comment (Notice 1) (56 FR 8826; March 1, 1991). In that notice, RSPA explained why granting a waiver from §192.179(a)(2) to allow placement of valves on the new 36-inch line concurrent with valves on two existing 26-inch lines would not

affect safety.

Comments were received from four pipeline operators and one interstate pipeline association. Each commenter endorsed the petition and recommended granting the waiver.

In accordance with the foregoing, RSPA, by this order, finds that compliance with §192.179(a)(2) is unnecessary for the reasons explained in Notice 1, and that the requested waiver would not be inconsistent with pipeline safety. Accordingly, Texas Gas's petition for waiver from compliance with §192.179(a)(2) is granted.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 1672(d); 49 CFR 1.53, and appendix A of part 106.

Issued in Washington, DC on May 23, 1991.

George W. Tenley, Jr.,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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