

**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. 85-7W; Notice 1]

**Transportation of Natural and Other
Gas by Pipeline; Petition for Waiver**

The Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company (Transco) has petitioned for a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.553(d), which limits any increase of the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of existing gas pipelines to that pressure allowed for new pipelines of like material in the same location. The waiver would apply to four transmission line segments, two on Main Line "A" and two on Main Line "B", located in parallel in Pike County, Mississippi on line sections between Main Line Valve (MLV) 65-20 and Compressor Station No. 70. The MAOP of the subject segments would be increased from the present 770 psig to 780 psig (72 percent of specified minimum yield strength (SMYS)) for Main Line "A" and to 800 psig (68 percent of SMYS) for Main Line "B". The subject segments are between MP 652.5 and MP 655.75 and between MP 653.63 and 652.00. The remaining portions of the line sections were previously qualified to operate at the higher pressures requested.

Line "A" was constructed in 1950 and designed in accordance with the *ASA B31.1b Code* (1947 ed.). The pipe is 30 inches in diameter with 0.3125-inch wall thickness and was purchased to API Standard 5LX, Grade X52 specifications. In the line section involved, Line "A" was installed in a Class 1 location, with a design factor of 0.72 and a design pressure of 780 psig. A post-installation gas pressure test of 845 psig was applied which under the *B31.1b Code* qualified the pipe to operate at the design pressure.

Line "B" was constructed in 1954 and designed in accordance with the *ASA B31.18 Code* (1952 ed.). The pipe is 36 inches in diameter with 0.406-inch wall thickness and was purchased to API Standard 5LX, Grade X52 specifications. In the line section involved, Line "B" was installed in a Class 1 location with a design factor of 0.72 and design pressure of 844 psig. A construction hydrostatic test of 880 psig was applied which under the *B31.18 Code* qualified the pipe to operate at a MAOP of 800 psig.

Prior to the promulgation of 49 CFR Part 192 in 1970, the line sections involved had a MAOP of 780 psig for Line "A" and 800 psig for Line "B". After the issuance of 49 CFR Part 192, the MAOP of both sections was determined to be 770 psig in accordance with §192.619(c), based on the highest actual pressure to which the sections had been subjected during the five (5) years preceding July 1, 1970. The initial class location determination required by §192.607 indicated that each Main Line section contained two Class 2 locations, which are the subject segments. Subsequent to this determination, the Line "A" section was hydrostatically tested to a minimum of 1038 psig (92 percent of SMYS) which was held for a period of at least eight (8) hours; there were four (4) test leaks during the test. The Line "B" section was hydrostatically tested to a minimum of 1138 psig (97 percent of its SMYS) which was held for a period of at least eight (8) hours; there were no test leaks during this test.

These tests enabled the Class 1 portion of the Line "A" section to be uprated to its design pressure of 780 psig and the Class 1 portion of the Line "B" section to be uprated to its design pressure of 844 psig. But §192.553(d) prevented the MAOP of the subject segments, which were Class 2, from being uprated above 770 psig, the highest level permitted by §192.611. Subsequent to the hydrostatic pressure tests, another location on the line sections involved has changed from Class 1 to Class 2. The provisions of §192.611, governing confirmation or revision of MAOP when class location changes occur, permit the segments in this latest Class 2 location, which had been previously tested to more than 90 percent of SMYS, to retain their preexisting MAOP of 780 psig on Line "A" and 844 psig on Line "B".

Transco estimates that an increase in MAOP of the subject segments to 780 psig on Line "A" and 800 psig on Line "B" will increase the capacity of the line sections by 22 MCFD. This can be accomplished either by uprating the subject segments under the requested waiver, or by replacing a total of 3.375 miles of 30" O.D. Line "A" pipe and 3.375 miles of 36" O.D. Line "B" pipe. The estimated cost of pipe replacement for the subject segments of Lines "A" and "B" is \$5,770,000. Transco states that an expenditure of this magnitude would not promote pipeline safety and would merely burden its ratepayers and

cause detriment to its shareholders.

RSPA agrees with Transco and believes that a waiver of §192.553(d) to permit the proposed uprating should be granted because the subject segments are not materially different with respect to design, construction, and leak and maintenance history from similar Class 2 segments in the same line section that may be uprated to an MAOP of 780 psig and 800 psig, respectively. The distinguishing factor is merely the timing of the qualifying pressure tests. Had they been performed before the subject segments changed from Class 1 to Class 2, the segments could have been uprated and then qualified under §192.611(a) for the higher MAOP's requested without restriction by §192.553(d).

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, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590.

All comments received before December 16, 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, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 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 November 12, 1985.

Robert L. Paullin,
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety.

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**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. 85-7W; Notice 2]

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

The Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company (Transco) had petitioned for a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.553(d), which limits any increase of the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of existing gas pipelines to that pressure allowed for new pipelines of like material in the same location. The waiver would apply to four transmission line segments, two on Main Line "A" and two on Main Line "B," located in parallel in Pike County, Mississippi, on line sections between Main Line Valve (MLV) 65-20 and Compressor Station No. 70. The MAOP of the subject segments would be increased from the present 770 psig (established under §192.619(c)) to 780 psig (72 percent of specified minimum yield strength (SMYS)) of Main Line "A" and to 800 psig (68 percent of SMYS) for Main Line "B." The subject segments are between Mile Post (MP) 652.5 and MP 655.75 and between MP 653.63 and 652.00. The remaining portions of the line sections were previously qualified to operate at the higher pressures requested.

In response to this petition, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) issued a Notice of a Petition for Waiver inviting interested persons to comment (Notice 1; 50 FR 47322, November 15, 1985). In this notice, RSPA explained why granting Transco a waiver from §192.553(d) to permit uprating of the two segments of Line "A" and two segments of Line "B" described above would not affect safety.

Comments were received from five pipeline operators and one industry organization, each of whom endorsed the petition and recommended granting the waiver. In addition to these comments, one State agency questioned the need for a waiver on the basis of the exception from §192.553(d) in §192.555(c). This exception does not, however, permit operation of the subject segments above 770 psig, which as provided in §192.555(c), is the "highest pressure that is permitted under §192.619."

In consideration of the foregoing,

RSPA by this order finds that compliance with §192.553(d) 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, Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company is granted a waiver from compliance with §192.553(d) regarding the two segments of Line "A" and two segments of Line "B" described above for the purpose of uprating to 780 psig and 800 psig, respectively.

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

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 16, 1986.

Robert L. Paullin,
*Director, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research
and Special Programs Administration.*

[FR Doc. 86-1382 Filed 1-22-86; 8:45 am]