



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

SEP 09 2014

Ms. Mary Zanter  
Pipeline Safety Program Manager  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

**PHMSA-2014-0112**

Dear Ms. Zanter:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) reviewed your letter of July 25, 2014, notifying us that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) granted a waiver of 49 CFR §192.285(c) pertaining to plastic pipe joiner requalification to Watertown Municipal Utilities (Watertown) subject to certain conditions and review by PHMSA.

Section 192.285(c) requires a person to be requalified under an applicable procedure if during any 12-month period the person does not make any joints or has 3 joints or 3 percent of joints made, whichever is greater, that are found unacceptable by testing under § 192.285. Watertown requested a waiver to allow its employees to be requalified by alternate means to allow for a more flexible schedule while also providing equivalent or better level of safety.

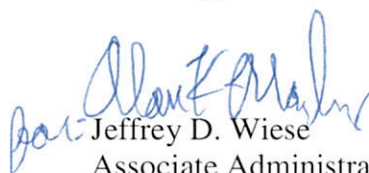
The Commission considered the request and issued an order granting the waiver subject to review and approval by PHMSA of the following conditions:

- A person must be requalified under the applicable joining procedure at least once each calendar year, at intervals not exceeding fifteen months.
- If a joiner has one joint made under this procedure that is found unacceptable by testing under 49 CFR 192.513, that person must be requalified.

PHMSA reviewed the Commission's order with its conditions and does not object.

If you wish to discuss this or any other pipeline safety matter, my staff would be pleased to assist you. Please contact Mr. John Gale, Director of Regulations at 202-366-0434 for regulatory matters, or Mr. Kenneth Lee, Director of Engineering and Research, at 202-366-2694 for technical matters. Thank you for your continued efforts in pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey D. Wiese

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety