



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

**MAR 12 2012**

Mr. Robert G. Gorham  
Division Chief  
Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Pipeline Safety Division  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
3950 Paramount Boulevard, #210  
Lakewood, California 90712

Dear Mr. Gorham:

**PHMSA-2012-0042**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has reviewed your letter received on February 14, 2012, notifying us that the California Office of the State Fire Marshal (CSFM) proposes to grant Valero Benicia Refinery (Valero) a waiver from 49 CFR 195.306(b)(1). Valero requested that CSFM modify compliance with 49 CFR 195.306(b)(1) as adopted by the State of California pursuant to section 51011 of the California Code, and allow Valero to test the following pipelines using high flash diesel fuel as the test medium:

State ID Number	Service	Length (miles)
CSFM# 658	Jet Fuel to Dock #1	2.1
CSFM# 659	PGO & Bunker Fuel between Refinery & Dock #2	2.1
CSFM# 660	Gasoline & blending products between Refinery & Dock #4	2.1
CSFM# 661	Gasoline, diesel, & reformat between Refinery & Dock #5	2.1

This proposed waiver by the CSFM would allow Valero to use high flash diesel fuel instead of liquid petroleum as the test medium for approximately 8.4 miles of the above pipelines located in Solano County, CA. You have confirmed that each of these pipelines have been previously tested successfully using high-flash diesel as the test medium.

PHMSA does not object to CSFM's waiver of 49 CFR 195.306 (b)(1) providing that CSFM impose the following conditions:

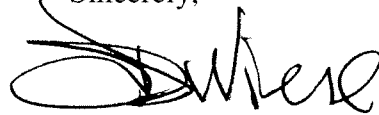
1. Test shall be conducted only during daylight hours.
2. The test pressure shall not exceed 26% SMYS or the 2007 test pressure.

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My staff would be pleased to discuss this decision or any other pipeline safety matter with you. John Gale, Director, Standards and Rulemaking Division, 202-366-4959, may be contacted on regulatory matters and Jeffery Gilliam, Director, Engineering and Research Division, 202-366-0568, may be contacted on technical matters specific to this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Wiese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

Jeffrey D. Wiese  
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety