

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration
400 Seventh Street. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

APR 17 2000

Don E. Matin
Chief, Pipeline Safety
Arkansas Public Service Commission
Utilities Division
PO Box 400
Little Rock, AR 72203-0400

Dear Mr. Matin:

We have considered your letter of February 29, 2000, notifying us the Commission granted Reliant Energy Arlda a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.321(a) for plastic pipe across two bridges in Little Rock, Arkansas. One bridge is on 28th Street between Madison Street and Monroe Street, and the second bridge is on Monroe Street just north of 28th Street. The waiver permits the installation of 2-inch plastic pipe above ground inside a 4-inch steel casing suspended on the two bridges. The steel-encased plastic pipe will be protected against mechanical damage and ultraviolet radiation, and meet all stress limits applicable to plastic pipe.

We have no objection to the waiver. The circumstances are comparable to those of previous waivers we have approved permitting the installation of plastic pipe above ground on bridges.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Richard B. Felder
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety