

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

Bruno Carrara
General Manager, Pipeline safety Bureau
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
142 West Palace Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Mr. Carrara:

We have received your letter dated April 2, 2004, in which you granted a waiver to the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) from the requirements of 49 CFR 192.131, *Design limitations for plastic pipe*. The waiver would allow PNM to install and operate polyamide 11 (PA11) plastic pipe at up to 175 psig at specific locations within their pipeline system.

Previous waivers issued by the Office of Pipeline safety (OPS) have allowed PA11 to operate with an MAOP of 175 psig provided that periodic tests show that the pipe remains defect-free. OPS recommends that the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) consider adding this stipulation to the approved waiver.

OPS does not object to the issuance of this waiver with the stipulations ordered by the NMPRC. This waiver is not inconsistent with pipeline safety.

Sincerely,
Stacey L. Gerard
Associated Administrator for Pipeline Safety

Carrara, Burno E.

From: Carrara, Bruno E.
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 10:40 AM
To: Jon Jones (E-mail); Rebecca carter (E-mail)
Cc: Stephenson, Roy; Johnson, Joe M; Martinez, Ron; 'richard.huriaux@rspa.dot.gov';
Subject: PA-11 waiver approval letter from OPS

To: Jon Jones, PNM
Becky Carter PNM

Spoke to Richard Huriaux of OPS in Washington regarding the section of the approval letter for the PA11 Waiver received from OPS several weeks dealing with the requirement "...provided that periodic tests show that the pipe remains defect free...". I pointed out that the stipulation did require that sections of pipe would be removed and tested at the end of 12 and 24 months (section 8), and said that PNM was also considering removing a test section at the end of 38 months, Richard was satisfied.

Bruno