

JAN 22 1996

Mr. James S. Stites  
Manager, Department of Safety  
South Carolina Public Service Commission  
P. O. Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Mr. Stites:

We have considered your letter of October 24, 1995, notifying us that the Commission granted certain operators of intrastate gas transmission lines in South Carolina a waiver from complying with 49 CFR 192.485 and 192.713(a) in particular circumstances. The waiver permits the operators to repair non-leaking defects on steel transmission lines with Clock Spring® wrap, subject to conditions and future performance evaluations.

We have no objection to the waiver. It is consistent with a similar waiver we granted operators of interstate gas transmission lines (60 FR 10630; February 27, 1995).

Sincerely,



Richard B. Felder  
Associate Administrator  
for Pipeline Safety

cc:

DPS-1/2/10/11/20/25; DCC-1

DPS-11:LMFurrow:366-2392:11/21/95  
FILE: South Carolina State Waiver File  
DPS-1,2,10,20,Regions,TSIEMail,State Mailing  
RdgFile

State of South Carolina



Public Service Commission

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Executive Director  
(803) 737-5120

GARY E. WALSH

Deputy Executive Director  
(803) 737-5133

October 24, 1995

Mr. Cesar DeLeon  
Deputy Associate Administrator  
Office of Pipeline Safety  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 2335  
Washington, D. C. 20590

Re: Clock Spring Devices

Dear Mr. DeLeon:

In accordance with the Guidelines for States Participating in the Pipeline Safety Program, Chapter 3, I am enclosing copy of the Commission Order approving a waiver for our intrastate transmission pipeline operators to use the Clock Spring Device, for OPS consideration. I am also enclosing copies of the Applications for waiver filed by the operators. All operators were required to publish public notice of their filings. Interested parties were given thirty (30) days to file comments and no comments were received from the general public. It is my understanding that we are to receive a decision by OPS within 60 days after receipt by OPS and absent a decision, the waiver will be effective at the end of the 60 day period.

Please do not hesitate to call on us if you have any questions or if you need further information concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

James S. Stites, Manager  
Department of Safety

JSS:flb

Enclosure(s):

cc: Fred Joyner

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OPS-1

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 95-1119-G - ORDER NO. 95-1611

OCTOBER 20, 1995

IN RE: Request by Operators of Gas Transmission ) ORDER  
Pipelines for Waiver from Federal Gas ) GRANTING  
Pipeline Safety Regulations to Allow the ) REQUEST FOR  
use of the Clock Spring Device for Repairs. ) WAIVER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the requests of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Clinton-Newberry Natural Gas Authority, Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works, South Carolina Pipeline Corporation, and Greer Commission of Public Works (the operators of gas transmission pipelines) for a waiver of 49 CFR 192.713(a) and 192.485 to be able to make repairs of non-leaking defects on pipelines using a method identified as the Clock Spring wrapping device.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Executive Director, the operators of gas transmission pipelines published Notices of the request in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene have been received. The Commission will therefore proceed to decide the question.

The Federal Research and Special Programs Administration has waived at the Federal level maintenance regulations 49 CFR 192.713(a) and 192.485 to permit 28 pipeline operators and their

subsidiaries to repair steel gas transmission lines with Clock Spring wrap. The Clock Spring wrap apparently presents numerous advantages to operators of gas transmission lines in the repair of their lines.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-970 (1976), as amended, the Public Service Commission has adopted and enforces the minimum Federal Safety Standards for the transportation of gas and pipeline facilities established by the Secretary of Transportation. S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-1050 (1976), as amended, defines the relationship of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina and Federal agencies. Section 58-5-1050(b) states that in the event that new or amended Federal Safety Standards are adopted, the Commission shall submit an appropriate certification to comply with the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act. Section (c) of this statute allows the Commission to enforce Federal Safety Standards in South Carolina in lieu of enforcement by the Department of Transportation, as permitted by the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as may be amended from time-to-time, and exercise regulatory jurisdiction over the safety of pipeline systems, and the transportation of gas, as permitted by the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as may be amended from time-to-time.

The Commission has examined this matter, and believes that the waiver should be granted applicable to operators of gas transmission pipelines under five (5) conditions as set out below:

1. Clock Spring wrap must be installed using procedures recommended to by the manufacturer;

2. Clock Spring wrap must be installed consistent with the program, GRI WRAP;
3. Clock Spring wrap must be installed consistent with a Gas Research Institute Plan, including, at two-year intervals, excavating and evaluating a statistical sample of sites, recording the results, and sending the results to Research and Special Programs Administration;
4. To allow inspection by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, scheduled non-emergency installations of Clock Spring wrap must be reported (by phone, fax, or mail), a reasonable time period before installation to the Commission. All emergency installations not previously reported shall be reported to the Commission as soon as practical after installation; and
5. Persons installing Clock Spring wrap must have been trained and certified in installation procedures either by the Clock Spring company or by persons the Clock Spring company has trained and certified.

Pursuant to the statutes listed above, the waiver is effective upon approval by the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety. Although the Commission hereby approves the waiver, the Commission notes that the waiver shall not be effective unless the Office of Pipeline Safety approves it. The Commission Staff must therefore submit the waiver to the Office of Pipeline Safety for approval, and notify each operator of action taken by the Office of Pipeline Safety in this regard. As we understand it, the Office of Pipeline Safety has up to sixty (60) days to act on the waiver after submission.

DOCKET NO. 95-1119-G - ORDER NO. 95-1611  
OCTOBER 20, 1995  
PAGE 4

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This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further  
Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)