

PI-73-0119

December 14, 1973

Edward J. Farkas
Associate Professor
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario
Canada N2L 3G1"

Dear Professor Farkas:

Your letter of October 15, 1973, to the Federal Power Commission requesting information concerning gas pipeline rights-of-way has been forwarded to this Office for further response,

The Office of Pipeline Safety administers safety standards governing the transportation of gas and the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of gas pipeline facilities in the United States. These standards are contained in Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations. A copy of Part 192 with recent amendments as published in the Federal Register is enclosed for your information.

Our standards are, for the most part, written in performance terms rather than detailed specifications. They prescribe safety goals to be achieved, while permitting pipeline operators the flexibility of choosing the best method of accomplishment. As this relates to your interest in rights-of-way, the standards do not limit locations for pipelines. Instead, they prescribe safety requirements which vary by degree in many instances according to the characteristics of a pipeline's location. To better understand this concept see section 192.5 and, for example, section 192.111 in the standards.

Although our standards do contain basic safety requirements for construction in Subpart G, the best source for information you are seeking, as to choice of rights-of-way and access of vehicles during construction, is the pipeline industry itself, or trade journals.

We hope this brief discussion is helpful. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Original signed by:
Joseph C. Caldwell
Director
Office of Pipeline Safety

December 15, 1973

Federal Power Commission
Washington 20426

Professor Edward J. Farkas
University of Waterloo
Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1

Dear Professor Farkas:

This is in response to your letter of October 15, 1973, requesting information on regulations pertaining to natural gas pipeline rights-of-way.

Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations, chapter 1, Subchapter A, part 2, Section 2.69 (a copy of which is enclosed), contains the guidelines to be followed by natural gas pipeline companies in the planning, locating, clearing and maintenance of rights-of-way, and the construction of above-ground facilities. It is the responsibility of this commission to review all applications for new construction to insure that construction proposals comply with these regulations. In addition, it has been the policy of the FPC to adopt and adhere to the objectives and aims of the national Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, also enclosed). NEPA requires that all Federal agencies include a detailed environmental statement in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. In all cases, a proposed pipeline route is evaluated to determine the impact of construction upon the environment. We are also enclosing a copy of the Natural Gas Act which allows, in section 7(h), pipeline rights-of-way to be acquired through eminent domain proceedings in the U.S. District Court if necessary.

The already mentioned guidelines do not affect and applicant's obligation to comply with the applicable safety regulations of the Department of Transportation, pursuant to the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968. We have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to that agency for whatever addition information they may be able to provide.

You may wish to contact the contracting companies who actually do the laying of pipeline for the natural gas companies. These contractors should be able to give you information on the various methods of pipeline construction. Additional information concerning pipeline construction may be obtained by contacting the Independent Natural Gas Association of America at 1660 L Street, N.W, Washington, D.C.

We are glad to have been of assistance and hope the above information answers your questions.

Very truly yours,
Kenneth F. Plumb
Secretary

University of Waterloo

October 15, 1973

Federal Power Commission,
Washington, D.C.,
U.S.A

Gentlemen:

A new gas pipeline is going to be built in this area and in order to understand this development more fully we are collecting information from other countries and from other jurisdictions. I would therefore appreciate it very much if you could supply me with copies of regulations, policy statements or other documents related to the following matters.

1. Can gas pipeline rights of way be coincident with roadways? Can gas pipeline rights of way be combined with rights of way of electrical transmission lines into utility "corridors"? These two developments would reduce the amount of land that must be used for gas pipelines, and would reduce the amount of forest that must be cut, etc.

2. Where a pipeline must cut across forest land or farmland, rather than following a roadway or other utility right of way, the main impact on the land is due to the necessity to provide access for vehicles during the construction phase. Are there any recent developments that could reduce the width needed for access of vehicles? One could think here of crawler machines that would straddle the trench and "pay out" the pipe into the trench as it is assembled, rather than doing all work from access roads beside the trench.

Thank you in advance for any material you can supply.

Yours Sincerely,
Edward J. Farkas,
Associate Professor