

PRESIDENT ISSUES DECISION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ALASKA NATURAL

GAS PIPELINE...On September 22, 1977, pursuant to the provisions of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976 (ANGTA), the President issued his Decision and Report to Congress on the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System naming Alcan Pipeline Company as his choice to construct a pipeline system to bring Prudhoe Bay natural gas to markets in the "lower 48." This Decision was approved by Congress on November 2, 1977, and the President signed it into law on November 8, 1977.

SANTMAN APPOINTED DIRECTOR, MTB...The Secretary, Department of the Transportation, named Leon D. Santman to be the Director of the Materials Transportation Bureau (MTB). Immediately prior to his new assignment, Lee Santman served as Assistant General Counsel for Materials Transportation Law since 1975. Other positions held by Santman have included Associate General Counsel, Cost of Living Council, 1973-1974; Deputy General Counsel, Price Commission, 1972-1973; Assistant General Counsel for Regulation, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1968-1970; Special Assistant to Chief Counsel, U.S. Coast Guard, 1966-1967; Senior Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office, New York, 1965; and various law enforcement and engineering assignments as a Commissioned Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, 1952-1964. By training, Santman is both a lawyer and engineer. He received a B.S. Degree in 1952 from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, an LL.B Degree in 1963 from the University of Houston, and an LL.M Degree in 1968 from George Washington University. He is admitted to practice law in Texas and Maryland and before various Federal courts.

Relates to 49 CFR §192.313 and §195.212MTB ISSUES CORRECTION TO FINAL RULE ON LONGITUDINAL SEAMS IN PIPE

BENDS...On November 18, 1977, MTB issued a correction to the final rule document that appeared at page 42865 in the Federal Register of Thursday, August 25, 1977 (F.R. Doc. 77-24303). By Amendment 192-29 and 195-12, new §§192.313(a)(4)(ii) and 195.212(b)(3)(ii) were added, respectively, to Parts 192 and 195 to provide that the longitudinal seams of steel pipe need not be placed near the neutral axis during bending if -- "The pipe is 12 inches or less in outside diameter with a diameter to wall thickness ratio less than 70."

As stated in the preamble, the rationale for adopting this provision was that "safe bends in steel pipe 12 inches or less in outside diameter with a D/t (diameter to thickness) ratio of less than 70 can be made without using an internal bending mandrel even though the longitudinal seam is not placed near the neutral axis of the bend." This rationale purportedly was based on comments received on Notice 76-2 (41 FR 46463, Oct. 21, 1976), which proposed to remove the requirement for placement of the longitudinal seam near the neutral axis when a bending mandrel is used. Recently, however, several persons have pointed out that both the final rule

and the rationale incorrectly interpreted the written comments in the docket and the position of the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (TPSSC). The correct view of the commenters [sic] and the TPSSC is that any pipe 12 inches and under in diameter can be bent safely without a mandrel and without placing the longitudinal seam near the neutral axis, irrespective of the D/t ratio and that any size pipe with a D/t ratio of less than 70 can likewise be bent safely.

After thoroughly reviewing the matter, the MTB found itself in agreement with the corrected version and issued a correction to Sections 192.313(a)(4)(ii) and 195.212(b)(3)(ii) of Amendments 192-29 and 195-12 to read as follows: "The pipe is 12 inches or less in outside diameter or has a diameter to wall thickness ratio less than 70."

Reprints of the Notice were sent to those on OPSO's mailing lists to receive publications relating to gas and liquid safety regulations.

Relates to 49 CFR 192

MTB ISSUES STANDARDS FOR CONVERSION OF EXISTING PIPELINES TO GAS

SERVICE..On November 18, 1977, MTB amended 49 CFR Part 192 (Amendment 192-30, Docket No. OPSO 77-3) to provide Federal standards for the conversion of existing pipelines to gas service. This amendment, effective December 30, 1977, permits previously used steel pipelines to qualify for use in gas service under Part 192 without meeting the design and construction requirements applicable to new pipelines. The need for the amendment arises from the changing transportation patterns for oil and gas in pipelines in the United States. At the present time, however, the Federal gas pipeline safety standards require that any pipelines readied for gas service after March 12, 1971 (July 31, 1977, in the case of offshore gathering lines), must be designed and constructed in accordance with the applicable Federal safety standards. In the case of previously operated steel lines being converted to service subject to Part 192, MTB has adopted alternative safety requirements which require an operator to prepare and follow a written conversion procedure. The procedure must provide for visual inspection and historical review of the pipeline to identify actual or potential sources of failure. The review must be supplemented with appropriate tests, such as physical or chemical testing, where historical records are insufficient to judge the line's condition. Problem areas must be corrected, normally by repair, replacement, or other alteration. A pressure test must be performed to demonstrate that the structural integrity of the pipeline is sufficient for safe operation. Finally, the operator must keep a record of the investigations, tests, and remedial measures conducted on the pipeline.

Reprints of the Notice were sent to those on OPSO's mailing list to receive publications relating to gas and liquid safety regulations.

OPSO ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE OF 2-DAY INDUSTRY SEMINARS..OPSO will be joined by several State agencies in sponsoring 24 2-day industry seminars on gas pipeline safety. Small

and medium-sized gas pipeline operators are especially encouraged to attend a seminar within their area. Additional details pertaining to the location, time, and registration are available from the State agency. The cosponsoring States and the schedule are shown below:

Colorado	10/26-27/77	Vermont/N. Hampshire	5/25-26/78
S. Carolina	11/29-30/77	Nebraska 3	5/31-6/1/78
Tennessee	12/14-15/77	Montana	6/19-20/78
Alabama	1/18-19/78	Washington	6/22-23/78
California (N)	2/6-7/78	Wisconsin 3	8/14-15/78
California (S)	2/9-10/78	Illinois 3	8/17-18/78
Hawaii	2/28-3/1/78	Georgia	8/23-24/78
N. Carolina	3/27-28/78	Florida (PSC)	8/28-29/78
Virginia	3/30-31/78	Florida (FM)	8/31-9/1/78
Michigan 3	4/25-26/78	Kentucky	9/11-12/78
Indiana 3	5/4-5/78	West Virginia	9/14-15/78
D.C./Md./Delaware	5/22-23/78	Nevada/Arizona	9/20-21/78

OPSO SOUTHERN CHIEF ADDRESSES EMERGENCY PLANNING SEMINAR...On November 8, 1977, J.C. Thomas, Chief, OPSO Southern Region, addressed a Public Service Commission of Kentucky sponsored seminar at Prestonburg, Kentucky. Topics covered in the presentation included planning and responding to gas system emergencies and initial investigative activities. Thomas provided suggestions for preparation of adequate written emergency procedures and reviewed the operator's obligations in the event of system emergencies.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATIONS TOPIC OF DOT SEMINAR IN DECEMBER...The U.S. Department of Transportation will hold two 2-day seminars on department regulations governing the safe transportation of hazardous materials. The seminars will be held on December 13-14, 1977, and December 15-16, 1977, at the Holiday Inn, Newark Airport, Newark, N.J. Cost of registration at the seminar is \$30. The sessions are designed as introduction to persons who have recently become involved in hazardous materials transportation and as a refresher and update session for those persons already familiar with the DOT regulations. The seminars are not intended to replace the in-depth training necessary to comply with the regulations.

Spaces at the seminars are limited and will be assigned as registrations are received. Registration checks must be made payable to "U.S. Department of Transportation," and mailed to the Office of Hazardous Materials Operations, DMT-15, (Seminar), U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C., 20590. No refunds will be made after December 7, 1977. Persons desiring hotel accommodations should contact the hotel directly. Persons wishing more information should contact Ms. Joan Harris or Roosevelt McKinley, Jr., at (202) 426-2301.

OPSO SOUTHWEST REGION ENGINEER SPEAKS AT CORROSION SEMINAR...On November 9, 1977, Jose de la Fuente, OPSO Southwest Region, spoke to the Permian Basin 16th Biennial Corrosion Symposium in Odessa, Texas. Topics covered were current status of OPSO regulatory program regarding corrosion control, including hot spot protection, technical contract studies, and excavation damage and its effect on cathodic protection.

NEW HAMPSHIRE PUC ANNOUNCES OPENING FOR GAS SAFETY ENGINEER...The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission is seeking a Gas Safety Engineer to administer and monitor the OPSO gas pipeline safety program for its six distribution companies and two transmission companies. The current salary range is \$13,536 to \$16,569. The staff engineer would be located at the Commission's offices in Concord, New Hampshire. Interested persons should apply to Bruce B. Ellsworth, Chief Engineer, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, 26 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301, (603) 271-2447.

FEDERAL/STATE REGIONAL MEETINGS HELD...The Third Annual Federal/State Regional Meetings were held recently at two regions:

- In the Southern Region, each of the eight States attended the meeting held in Orlando, Florida, on October 25-27, 1977. Highlights of the meeting included discussions on the evaluation of LPG underground pipeline systems, effect of underground damage law and one-call systems, inspection and maintenance of regulator and relief valves, gas curtailment and allocation outlook, and a tour of the Disneyworld Natural Gas System. Tom Dixon, North Carolina Utilities Commission, and Richard Sanders, Mississippi Public Service Commission, were selected to serve next year as Regional Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.
- In the Central Region, representatives of each of the 10 States in that region attended the meeting held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 8-9, 1977. Topics of discussion included the one-call system in Illinois, determination of corrosive areas via mapping, and a review of the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on LNG. The meeting included a tour of the Citizens Gas and Coke peak shaving LNG facility in Indianapolis. Larry Nisely, Indiana Public Service Commission, and Tom Lall, Illinois State Commission Commissioner, were selected to serve as Regional Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.

NTSB ISSUES RECOMMENDATION FOR PIPELINE ACCIDENT...The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has issued recommendations for the following accident:

A natural gas compressor, operating at 1,000 psig pressure, failure and explosion at an Exxon Gas System, Inc., station near Robstown, Texas, on December 7, 1976. An emergency shutdown system was activated by a worker at the station, but the four automated fire gate

valves on the two pipelines that supplies the station did not close. Another emergency control system also failed to automatically close the shutoff valves leading to two of the five compressors in the station. Later, a second explosion occurred within the burning building in one of the compressors that had not shut down automatically. Pipeline valves upstream and downstream of the station had to be closed manually. Gas burned for three hours until the pipeline pressure decreased to 250 psig and the fire gate valves could be approached and closed manually. The fire killed one person, injured two persons, and destroyed three engine-driven compressors and the compressor building. Property damage and gas loss was estimated to be \$5 million.

Investigation after the accident revealed, among things, that many of the studs that secured the 10-inch suction valve covers to the compressor cylinders were tightened approximately three times the amount recommended by the manufacturer of the compressor. A metallurgical analysis indicated that several studs had been overstressed and experienced fatigue-type failures.

NTSB letter safety recommendations P-77-27 through P-77-33 were made to Exxon Gas System, Inc., and recommendations P-77-34 and P-77-36 were made to the Materials Transportation Bureau of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Single copies of the letter safety recommendations may be obtained by directing a request to Publications Branch, AD-42, National Transportation Safety Board, Washington, D.C., 20594, telephone (202) 426-8169.

THE READING RACK...Technical information relating to pipeline safety appears in the following industry publications (Note--copies of these articles are not available from OPSO, and inclusion here does not necessarily indicate that content is consistent with Federal regulations):

GAS DIGEST, August 1977, "Survey of Measurement Equipment and Techniques," Ken Kridner, Editor; "Odorization Survey Reveals Importance of Techniques," Ken Kridner, Editor; "Texas Railroad Commission--Rule of Reason Regulatory," Billy G. Thompson; "Back to Basics, Part 21--The Valve," Floyd D. Jury, Fisher Controls Company; "IIGE Conducts In-House Gas Regulator Service Training," Staff Report.

AGA MONTHLY, September 1977, "Ethane Injection Helps Transco Meet Fuel Requirements," Staff Report.

Cesar DeLeon
Acting Director
Office of Pipeline
Safety Operations

The Secretary of Transportation has determined that publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through November 30, 1981.