



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

FEB 12 2015

Mr. Robert S. Checketts  
Vice President, Operations, IT and Engineering  
Kern River Gas Transmission Company  
2755 E. Cottonwood Parkway, Suite 300  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

**Ref: Special Permit Renewal March 29, 2015 to March 29, 2020**

**PHMSA-2007-29078  
PHMSA-2009-0377**

Dear Mr. Checketts:

By letter dated July 30, 2014, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) notified the Kern River Gas Transmission Company (Kern River) that the special permit granted to Kern River on March 29, 2010, to waive compliance with certain federal regulations in 49 CFR §§ 192.111, 192.201, 192.505, and 192.619 for the 1,380-mile Kern River pipeline system would expire on March 29, 2015, unless renewed. The special permit allows Kern River to operate above the normal pipeline 72 percent of specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) operating pressures of 1,200 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) up to 1,333 psig (80 percent SMYS) on the 36-inch mainline and loop pipelines, and up to 1,350 psig in its compressor stations.

By letter dated August 29, 2014, and supplemented by additional correspondence, Kern River applied for the renewal of the special permit and provided operational documentation to justify the special permit renewal. On November 4, 2014, PHMSA published a Federal Register notice announcing the renewal request (79 FR 65477). No public comments were received. The special permit renewal request letter and all other pertinent documents are available for review in Docket No. PHMSA-2007-29078 in the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) located at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov).

PHMSA reviewed all operational and maintenance data submitted by Kern River for the 1,380 mile Kern River facilities that spans from the discharges of the Muddy Creek and Painter Compressor stations, and at the Anschutz meter in Lincoln County, WY, to the outlet side of the Daggett meter station in San Bernardino County, CA, to the mainline. PHMSA finds that Kern River continues to meet the terms of the special permit and there has been no material change in conditions. Based on the information provided by Kern River, PHMSA has determined that renewal of the special permit would not be inconsistent with pipeline safety.

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Accordingly, by this Order, and as described in the original special permit, PHMSA grants the Kern River Gas Transmission Company a special permit renewal for PHMSA-2007-29078 (PHMSA-2009-0377) to operate from March 29, 2015, through March 29, 2020, for the 1,380-mile Kern River pipeline system facilities. This special permit renewal Order waives compliance with certain Federal regulations in 49 CFR §§ 192.111, 192.201, 192.505, and 192.619, for the 1,380-mile Kern River pipeline system facilities.

My staff would be pleased to discuss these special permits or any other regulatory matter with you. Mr. Chris Hoidal, Director, PHMSA, OPS, Western Region, may be contacted at 720-963-3160, for operational matters specific to the renewal of this special permit. Mr. John Gale, Director of Standards and Rulemaking Division, may be contacted at 202-366-0434 for regulatory matters, and Mr. Ken Lee, Director of Engineering and Research Division, may be contacted at 202-366-2694, for technical matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Wiese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

Jeffrey D. Wiese  
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety