
**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

Materials Transportation Bureau

[Docket No. 77-3W, Notice 1]

**TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL
AND OTHER GAS BY
PIPELINE**

Petition for Waiver

The Algonquin Gas Transmission Co. has petitioned the Office of Pipeline Safety Operations (OPSO) for a waiver from compliance with paragraph (a)(4) of §192.619 of the Federal gas pipeline safety standards (49 CFR Part 192) for its "G-6-4 inch" pipeline. This pipeline is located in the towns of Seekonk, Rehobeth, and Swansea, Mass. Section 192.619 establishes the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) for steel and plastic pipelines, and paragraph (a)(4) provides that furnace butt-welded steel pipe may not be operated at a pressure higher than 60 percent of the test pressure to which the pipe was subjected in the mill.

Algonquin's petition states that the "G-6-4 inch" pipeline was constructed in 1952. It comprises 14,415 feet of 42 inch diameter, 0.237 inch thick Republic API Class I Open hearth butt-welded pipe, which was subjected to a 1200 psi mill test. The present MAOP of the pipeline is 720 psig, based on the requirements of §192.619(a)(4). Algonquin now wishes to operate the pipeline at 750 psig, a pressure equal to the MAOP of connecting pipelines.

To qualify the line to operate at this higher pressure, Algonquin hydrostatically retested the pipeline without failure in accordance with the requirements of Subpart J of Part 192 at a minimum field test pressure of 1250 psig and met the requirements of Subpart K applicable to increasing an established MAOP. Under these circumstances, §192.619 would permit the desired operating pressure if it were not for the requirements of paragraph (a)(4).

OPSO is considering granting the requested waiver from paragraph (a)(4) for the following reasons:

1. The field test is a better, more reliable indicator of the present condition of the pipeline than the preinstallation mill test because it was performed at a higher pressure and for a significantly longer time. Also, the postinstallation

field test served as a check on possible defects which could not have been detected in the mill.

2. The requirements of Part 192 in Subpart J, Test requirements, and Subpart K, Uprating, provide for an acceptable level of safety in increasing the MAOP of furnace butt-welded pipe without the restriction of §192.619(a)(4).

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed waiver by submitting in triplicate such data, views, or arguments as they may desire. OPSO is particularly interested in comments on whether matters raised in Algonquin's petition may have general applicability to the gas pipeline industry. Communications should identify the regulatory docket and notice numbers and be submitted to:

Chief, Docket Section, Materials Transportation Bureau, Room 6500, Trans Point Building, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20590.

All comments received before May 22, 1978, will be considered before final action is taken. Late filed comments will be considered so far as practicable. All comments will be available for examination and copying at Docket Room 6500, Trans Point Building, before and after the closing date for comments. No hearing is contemplated, but one may be held at a time and place set in a later Notice in the **FEDERAL REGISTER** if requested by an interested person desiring to comment at a public hearing and raising a genuine issue.

(49 U.S.C. 1672; 49 CFR 1.53(a), App. A. of Part 1, and App. A. of Part 102.)

Issued in Washington, D.C., on April 12, 1978.

CESAR DE LEON,
*Acting Director, Office of
Pipeline Safety Operations.*

[FR Doc. 78-10548 Filed 4-19-78; 8:45 am]

**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

Materials Transportation Bureau

[Docket No. 77-3W, Notice 2]

**ALGONQUIN GAS TRANSMISSION
CO.**

Grant of Waiver

By a petition dated December 27, 1976, the Algonquin Gas Transmission Company petitioned for a waiver of compliance with paragraph (a)(4) of Section 192.619 of the Federal gas pipeline safety standards (49 CFR Part 192) for its "G-6-4 inch" pipeline, which is located in the towns of Seekonk, Rehobeth, and Swansea, Massachusetts. Section 192.619 establishes the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) for steel and plastic pipelines, and paragraph (a)(4) provides that furnace butt-welded steel pipe may not be operated at a pressure higher than 60 percent of the test pressure to which the pipe was subjected in the mill.

Algonquin's petition states that the "G-6-4 inch" pipeline was constructed in 1952. It comprises 14,415 feet of 42 inch outside diameter, 0.237 inch wall Republic API Class I Open Hearth butt-welded pipe, which was subjected to a 1200 psi mill test. The present MAOP of the pipeline is 720 psig, based on the requirements of §192.619(a)(4). Algonquin no wishes to operate the pipeline at 750 psig, a pressure equal to the MAOP of connecting pipelines.

To qualify the line to operate at this higher pressure, Algonquin hydrostatically retested the pipeline without failure in accordance with the requirements of Subpart J of Part 192 at a minimum field test pressure of 1250 psig and met the requirements of Subpart K of Part 192 applicable to increasing an established MAOP. Under these circumstances, §192.619 would permit the desired operating pressure if it were not for the requirements of paragraph (a)(4).

In response to this petition, a notice of petition for waiver was published in the **FEDERAL REGISTER** on April 20, 1978 (43 FR 16842). This notice stated that the Materials Transportation Bureau (MTB) was considering granting the proposed waiver for the following reasons:

1. The field test is a better, more reliable indicator of the present condition

of the pipeline than the preinstallation mill test because it was performed at a higher pressure and for a significantly longer time. Also, the postinstallation field test served as a check on possible defects which could not have been detected in the mill.

2. The requirements of Part 192 in Subpart J, Test requirements, and Subpart K, Uprating, provide for an acceptable level of safety in increasing the MAOP of furnace butt-welded pipe without the restriction of §192.619(a)(4).

Interested persons were invited to comment on the proposed waiver. Only three persons submitted comments, and they all supported the proposed waiver.

In consideration of the foregoing, it appears that the increase in MAOP proposed by Algonquin will not lessen public safety, and compliance with §192.619(a)(4) is not necessary in this case. Further, MTB finds that Algonquin has taken appropriate action to verify the continued integrity of this pipeline. Therefore, effective immediately, the Algonquin Gas Transmission Company is granted a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.619(a)(4) for the 14,415 feet of its "G-6-4 inch" pipeline for which the waiver was requested.

(Sec. 3 Pub. L. 90-481, 82 Stat. 721, 40 U.S.C. 1672, 40 FR 43901, 49 CFR 1.53 Appendix A of Part 1 and Appendix A of Part 106)

Issued in Washington, D.C. on December 1, 1978.

CESAR DE LEON,
*Associate Director for
Pipeline Safety Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 78-33963 Filed 12-6-78; 8:45 am]