



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

APR 19 2018

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Ms. Cindy Monnin
Integrity Manager
Harvest Alaska
3800 Centerpoint Drive
Suite 1400
Anchorage, AK 99503

PHMSA-2018-0029

Dear Ms. Monnin:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has reviewed your letter of March 15, 2018, wherein Harvest Alaska requested that PHMSA waive the Federal pipeline regulations of 49 CFR 192.327(e) – cover requirements. Docket number: PHMSA-2018-0029 was established and assigned to your request. All pertinent information pertaining to your request will be filed in this docket at <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

Harvest Alaska is requesting that PHMSA waive the requirements of 49 CFR 192.327(e) for the submerged portion of a new gas transmission pipeline that will originate at the Tyonek platform, and terminate at the Beluga Pipeline on the west side of Alaska's Cook Inlet. Harvest Alaska states that it is impractical to bury a submerged pipeline in the Cook Inlet due to the water depth, tidal currents, and seafloor geology. Instead of burial, Harvest Alaska proposes to install the pipeline using a direct lay method, involving careful route selection, pipeline weighting and stabilization measures, and a variety of other methods that are typical in the Cook Inlet.

PHMSA has determined that this is an offshore pipeline, therefore, the provisions of 49 CFR 192.327(e), do not apply. Accordingly, without prejudice, your special permit request is denied. The applicable code section for cover requirements of offshore pipelines is 49 CFR 192.327(f).

In accordance with 49 CFR 190.341(i), Harvest Alaska may petition PHMSA in writing for a reconsideration of this decision, within 20 calendar days' notice of this denial. Petitions must contain a brief statement of the issue and an explanation of why Harvest Alaska believes that this denial is not in the best interest of the public.

My staff would be pleased to discuss this matter or any other regulatory matter with you. John Gale, Director, Standards and Rulemaking Division, may be contacted at 202-366-0434 on regulatory matters. Kenneth Lee, Director, Engineering and Research Division, may be contacted at 202-366-2694, on technical matters specific to this special permit application.

Sincerely,

Alan K. Mayberry
Associate Administrator
Office of Pipeline Safety