



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

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

APR 13 2010

Mr. Christopher A. Helms
Executive Vice President and Group CEO
NiSource Gas Transmission & Storage
5151 San Felipe, Suite 2500
Houston, Texas 77056

Docket No. PHMSA-2008-0331

Dear Mr. Helms:

On November 14, 2008, Columbia Gas Transmission Company (CGTC) wrote to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), requesting a special permit to waive compliance from PHMSA's pipeline safety regulation in 49 CFR § 192.611. This request is for six segments of the CGTC natural gas transmission pipeline system in Cabell and Putnam Counties, West Virginia. The regulation requires confirmation or revision of the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of a pipeline segment where the class location has changed.

PHMSA considered denial of the special permit request based on the Columbia Gas enforcement history, and undertook an extensive review of current and proposed Columbia Gas programs to ensure compliance with pipeline safety regulations. Subsequent to this review, PHMSA determined Columbia Gas's actions were satisfactory and subject to a future review. PHMSA, therefore, is granting this special permit (enclosed), which allows CGTC, operated by NiSource Gas Transmission & Storage (NGT&S), to operate both the 30-inch SM-80 and the 30-inch SM-80 Loop pipelines at the current MAOP of 935 pounds per square inch gauge (psig). This special permit provides relief from the federal pipeline safety regulations for the 30-inch SM-80 and the 30-inch SM-80 Loop pipelines, and requires CGTC and NGT&S to comply with certain conditions and limitations designed to maintain pipeline safety.

PHMSA grants this special permit based on the findings set forth in the "Special Permit Analysis and Findings" document, which can be read in its entirety in Docket No. PHMSA-2008-0331 in the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) located on the internet at www.Regulations.gov.

My staff would be pleased to discuss this special permit or any other regulatory matter with you. John Gale, Director of Regulations (202-366-0434), may be contacted on regulatory matters and Alan Mayberry, Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety (202-366-5124), may be contacted on technical matters specific to this special permit.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Wiese
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety

Enclosure (Special Permit)