



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

MAR 2 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-2008-0066

Dear Mr. Helms:

On December 5, 2007, Columbia Gulf Transmission Company (Columbia Gulf) 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 nine segments of the Columbia Gulf natural gas transmission pipeline system in Williamson and Davidson Counties, Tennessee. 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 Columbia Gulf enforcement history, and undertook an extensive review of current and proposed Columbia Gulf programs to ensure compliance with pipeline safety regulations. Subsequent to this review, PHMSA determined that Columbia Gulf's actions were satisfactory and subject to a future review. PHMSA, therefore, is granting this special permit (enclosed), which allows Columbia Gulf, operated by NiSource Gas Transmission & Storage (NGT&S), to operate the 30-inch Mainline 100 at the current MAOP of 935 pounds per square inch gauge (psig), the 30-inch Mainline 200 at the current MAOP of 1008 psig, and the 36-inch Mainline 300 at the current MAOP of 1008 psig. This special permit provides relief from the federal pipeline safety regulations for the Mainline 100, 200, and 300 pipelines, and requires Columbia Gulf 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-2008-0066 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, Director of Engineering and Emergency Support (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)