



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Jeffery Kittka
Vice President
National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation
1100 State Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501

Re: Docket No. PHMSA-2021-0042
Special Permit Renewal from October 15, 2021 to October 15, 2031

Dear Mr. Kittka:

On March 15, 2021, pursuant to 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 190.341, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (NFG) applied to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) for a special permit. NFG requested a special permit to waive compliance with 49 CFR §§ 192.53, 192.55, 192.105, 192.107, 192.109, 192.111, 192.113, 192.144, 192.149, 192.150, 192.327, 192.463, and 192.619 for use of flexible steel line pipe. NFG has requested to insert approximately 12.58 miles of 6-inch diameter FlexSteel pipe and components into the NFG 12.75-inch diameter FM120 Pipeline located in McKean, Elk, and Cameron Counties, Pennsylvania.

FlexSteel pipe has an inner and outer layer of high-density polyethylene (PE 4710) and a middle layer of steel. The NFG FM120 Pipeline special permit segment is defined as approximately 12.58 miles of 6-inch diameter FlexSteel pipe located in a gas transmission Class 1 location. The maximum allowable operating pressure for the special permit segment will be 720 pounds per square inch gauge. The 6-inch diameter FlexSteel pipe will be installed by pulling it into an existing 12.75-inch diameter existing bare steel pipeline in the special permit segment.

On May 25, 2021, PHMSA published a Federal Register notice (86 FR 28187) announcing the Special Permit Request. The Special Permit Request letter, Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Special Permit Analysis and Findings (SPAF), and all other pertinent documents for this special permit are available in Docket No.

PHMSA-2021-0042 in the Federal Docket Management System located at www.regulations.gov.¹

PHMSA did not receive any public comments concerning this special permit request by the June 24, 2021 deadline.

PHMSA grants this special permit (enclosed) based on information provided by NFG and the findings set forth in the SPAF, FEA, and FONSI, which will allow NFG to operate the FM120 Pipeline special permit segment using FlexSteel pipe after implementing the special permit conditions. This special permit provides relief from certain requirements of the federal pipeline safety regulations for the NFG special permit segment and requires NFG to comply with certain conditions and limitations designed to maintain pipeline safety as defined in the special permit. If NFG elects not to implement the special permit conditions, NFG must immediately notify PHMSA and comply with 49 CFR §§ 192.53, 192.55, 192.105, 192.107, 192.109, 192.111, 192.113, 192.144, 192.149, 192.150, 192.327, 192.463, and 192.619 for usage of steel pipe in the operations and maintenance of the FM120 Pipeline.

My staff would be pleased to discuss this special permit or any other regulatory matter with you. Senth White, Director of PHMSA Engineering and Research Division, may be contacted at 202-366-2415, on technical matters; and Robert Burrough, Director, Office of Pipeline Safety, Eastern Region, may be contacted at 609-771-7813, for operational matters specific to this special permit.

Sincerely,

Alan K. Mayberry
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety

Enclosure: Special Permit – PHMSA-2021-0042

¹ <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=PHMSA-2021-0042>.