



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

MAR 03 2020

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

Mr. Robert S. Checketts
Vice President, Operations, IT and Engineering
Kern River Gas Transmission Company
2755 E. Cottonwood Parkway, Suite 300
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

Ref: Special Permit Renewal March 29, 2020 to March 29, 2030

Docket No. PHMSA-2007-29078

Dear Mr. Checketts:

On May 30, 2019, the Kern River Gas Transmission Company (Kern River) applied to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) for the renewal of a special permit, PHMSA- 2007-29078, originally issued on March 29, 2010, and renewed on March 29, 2015. The special permit renewal waives compliance of 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 192.111, 192.201, 192.505, and 192.619, subject to the conditions set forth in the special permit, for the 1,380-mile Kern River pipeline system located between Lincoln County, Wyoming and San Bernardino County, California.

By letter dated September 23, 2019, and supplemented by additional correspondence, Kern River provided operational documentation to justify the special permit renewal. The special permit allows Kern River to operate above the normal pipeline 72 percent of specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) operating pressures of 1,200 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) up to 1,333 psig (80 percent SMYS) on the 36-inch mainline and loop pipelines, and up to 1,350 psig in its compressor stations.

On December 13, 2019, PHMSA published a Federal Register notice (84 FR 68295) announcing the renewal request. No public comments were received regarding the renewal request or the proposed modification to the terms or conditions of the special permit. The special permit renewal request letter and all other pertinent documents are available for review in Docket No. PHMSA-2007-29078 in the Federal Docket Management System located at www.regulations.gov.

At Kern River's request, PHMSA is modifying Condition 35(b) and 35(h) of the special permit, to include "lessons learned" and test data collected since the original granting of the special permit in 2010. PHMSA is granting a change in Condition 35(b) to provide Kern River the opportunity to concurrently schedule key integrity-related surveys, close interval and depth of cover surveys, with its required in-line inspection (ILI) surveys to allow for data integration.

PHMSA is granting a change in Condition 35(h) to allow the use of previously excavated pipeline features for calibrating Kern River's in-line inspections surveys. Use of known but stable pipeline anomalies will allow accurate confirmation of its ILI survey results without undue environmental disturbance of the pipeline right of way.

The modifications to Condition 35(b) and (h) and to the Limitation 7 for future renewal timing interval of the existing special permit (PHMSA-2007-29078) are *italicized* and underlined below:

Condition 35(b): Kern River must perform close interval surveys (CIS) of the *special permit area* in concert and integrated with future ILI assessments, within six (6) months of completion of such ILI assessments, and *within 52 months of the preceding CIS*. For all CIS readings that do not meet 49 CFR Part 192, Subpart I and are more negative than -3.0 volts DC, Kern River must remediate low cathodic protection (CP) in the *special permit area*. Remediation shall include repair in accordance with Condition 43 of any conditions discovered, repair of any damaged pipe coating and the performance of CP system modifications necessary to ensure corrosion control in accordance with 49 CFR Part 192, Subpart I.

Condition 35(h): For all ILI runs, Kern River must account for ILI tool tolerance and corrosion growth rates when scheduling response times and repairs. Kern River must record, and provide upon request, documentation and technical justification of the values used. Kern River must demonstrate ILI tool tolerance accuracy for each ILI tool run by usage of calibration excavations (minimum of five (5) excavations for each ILI Tool run) * and unity plots that demonstrate ILI tool accuracy for depth within, +10% accuracy for 80% of the time. The unity plots must show: (i) actual anomaly depth versus predicted depth: and (ii) actual failure pressure/maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) versus predicted failure pressure/MAOP. Discovery of a condition is deemed to have occurred within 60 days of any ILI tool run (geometry, deformation or high resolution MFL).”

**Note: ILI tool calibration excavations may include previously excavated features with known dimensions that were field measured for length, depth and width, externally re-coated, where the features have been maintained with cathodic protection, and where the features have been documented for ILI calibration prior to the ILI tool run. A minimum of three (3) new ILI tool calibration excavations or re-excavations are required for each ILI tool run segment. A minimum of four (4) new ILI tool calibration excavations or re-excavations are required for each ILI tool run segment 58 miles or longer in length. At least one ILI tool calibration excavation, re-excavation or evaluation of a previously excavated feature must be within the last 10% of the ILI tool run segment.*

Limitation 7: PHMSA grants this special permit for a period of no more than *ten (10)* years from the grant date. If Kern River elects to seek renewal of this special permit, its request must be submitted at least 180 days prior to expiration of the *ten-year* period, to the PHMSA Associate Administrator, with copies to the Director, Division of Engineering and Research,

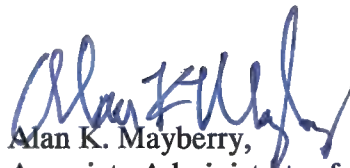
and Director, *Office of Pipeline Safety*, Western Region. The request for a special permit renewal must include a summary report in accordance with the requirements of the Original Special Permit, Condition 47 for the 10-year period, including a summary of Condition 35 findings and remediation. The summary report must demonstrate how the special permit is still consistent with pipeline safety. PHMSA may seek additional information from Kern River prior to granting a request for special permit renewal.

PHMSA has reviewed all operational and maintenance data submitted by Kern River for its 1,380-mile pipeline system. PHMSA finds that there has been no material change in the conditions and that Kern River continues to meet the terms of the special permit. Based on the information provided by Kern River, PHMSA has determined that renewal of the special permit would not be inconsistent with pipeline safety.

Accordingly, pursuant to 49 CFR § 190.341, this Order, and with modifications above and as outlined in the existing special permit, PHMSA grants the renewal of PHMSA-2007-29078 to the Kern River Gas Transmission Company, from March 29, 2020, through March 29, 2030, to continue its operation of the 1,380-mile Kern River pipeline system. This special permit renewal Order continues to waive compliance with certain Federal regulations in 49 CFR §§ 192.111, 192.201, 192.505, and 192.619.

My staff would be pleased to discuss this special permit or any other regulatory matter with you. Senth White, Director of Engineering and Research Division, may be contacted at 202-366-2415, for technical matters; and Dustin Hubbard, Director, Office of Pipeline Safety, Western Region may be contacted at 720-963-3183, for operational matters specific to the renewal of this special permit.

Sincerely,



Alan K. Mayberry,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety

Enclosures:

Original Special Permit PHMSA-2007-29078 dated November 6, 2008,
Modification of Special Permit PHMSA-2007-29078 dated March 29, 2010, and
Special Permit PHMSA-2007-29078 Renewal Order dated February 12, 2015.