
**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. P-92-2W; Notice 2]

**Transportation of Hazardous Liquids
by Pipeline Grant of Waiver; ARCO
Oil and Gas Company**

December 9, 1993.

ARCO Oil and Gas Company petitioned the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) for a waiver from compliance with a pipeline safety standard regarding inspection of rights-of-way (49 CFR 195.412(a)). This standard requires inspection of surface conditions on or adjacent to each pipeline right-of-way at intervals not exceeding 3 weeks, but at least 26 times each calendar year. The petition applies to the Sheep Mountain Unit gathering system, a 6.9 mile carbon dioxide pipeline system in Colorado.

ARCO requested the waiver to avoid the risks to personnel caused by the system's location. As the petition explained, the system is in a high (8000-9200 ft) mountainous area where the right-of-way is rugged and steep. Ground surveillance has a substantial risk of vehicle turn-over and of persons tripping and falling, especially in deep snow during winter months. Aerial surveillance is frequently exposed to turbulence and down draft at the higher elevations of Sheep Mountain and surrounding mountainous terrain.

The petition further explained that the system presents little risk to the public. It is in a remote location with sparse population (only two residences within a one-mile radius of the system). Although the commodity transported has a natural odorant, drill sites are monitored for carbon dioxide, and ARCO's emergency response plan calls for evacuation of residences when a one percent carbon dioxide concentration occurs in the atmosphere. Pipeline flow rate, pressure, and temperature are monitored continuously by a computerized process control system, and personnel monitor the computer system 24 hours a day for leaks and other problems. In addition, from the lease roads, personnel observe approximately 50 percent of the right-of-way every day; and the entire system is inspected at least once a year.

After reviewing the petition, RSPA

published a notice inviting interested persons to comment on whether a waiver should be granted (Notice 1) (58 FR 26381; May 3, 1993). RSPA stated it was considering granting the requested waiver because for the Sheep Mountain system, compliance with 49 CFR 195.412(a) exposes personnel to unusual risks, little of the public is exposed to the system, and ARCO uses safety monitoring techniques that exceed the requirements of 49 CFR part 195. RSPA did not receive any comments in response to the notice.

For the reasons explained above and in Notice 1, RSPA, by this order, finds that the requested waiver of 49 CFR 195.412(a) is appropriate and is not inconsistent with pipeline safety. Therefore, ARCO Oil and Gas Company's petition for waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 195.412(a) is granted, effective December 14, 1993.

Authority: 49 App. U.S.C. 2002(h) and 2015; and 49 CFR 1.53.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 9, 1993.

George W. Tenley, Jr.,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 93-30480 Filed 12-13-93; 8:45 am]