
**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. 79-6W]

**Shell Pipe Line Corp.; Grant of
Waiver**

By a petition dated August 17, 1979, the Shell Pipe Line Corporation petitioned for a waiver of compliance with §195.424 of 49 CFR Part 195, Transportation of Liquids by Pipeline, in order that a portion of its Capline pipeline system can be lowered without reducing the operating pressure. The proposed site of lowering is a stream crossing in the vicinity of Batesville, Mississippi, approximately three miles upstream from the Sardis, Mississippi, pump station and 35 miles downstream from the Oakland, Mississippi, pump station.

Section 195.424 of Part 195, titled Pipe movement, provides in part that no carrier may move any line pipe unless the pressure in the line section involved is reduced to not more than 50 percent of the maximum operating pressure.

Shell Pipe Line Corporation's petition states that nearby Corps of Engineers project work had caused the stream bed to erode to a lower elevation than its original natural state, thereby making necessary the proposed lowering. Shell advises that the hydraulic gradient will cause pressure in the pipeline to be approximately 95 psi at the work site when the upstream Oakland pump station operates at a normal 555 psi and that reducing the pressure at the Oakland station to one-half of MOP as required by §195.424 will reduce the pressure at the work site to 60 psi. Shell estimates that the pipeline would have to operate at these reduced pressures for 120 hours in order to complete the work. Shell states that operating the pipeline at reduced pressure for this length of time will result in a loss of throughput of 2,280,000 barrels and would significantly reduce the petroleum supply to the Mid-Continent and Great Lakes area.

In response to this petition for waiver, the Materials Transportation Bureau (MTB) considers a waiver appropriate for the following reasons:

1. Reduction in pipeline pumping rate by an amount necessary to reduce pressure to comply with §195.424 would cause a loss of throughput greater than two million barrels, which would not

serve the public interest in providing energy supplies.

2. Shell has proposed to establish site communication network between the work site and the nearby pump stations. These manned radio contacts would be an effective means to instruct the pipeline control center to stop pipeline operation in case of an emergency and would provide a faster shutdown than would compliance with §195.424.

3. The pressure at the work site is normally very low because the site is just upstream from a pump station.

In consideration of the foregoing, the MTB believes that the pipeline movement outlined by the Shell Pipe Line Corporation will not lessen public safety, and compliance with §195.424(b) is not essential. Therefore, effective immediately, the Shell Pipe Line Corporation is granted a waiver from compliance with §195.424 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, for one specific pipeline movement maintenance job, lowering the Capline pipe at the stream crossing, for which the waiver was requested, provided the Shell Pipe Line Corporation establish a site communication network between the work site and the nearby pump stations.

(18 U.S.C. 834; 49 U.S.C. 1655; 49 CFR 1.53(b), App. A of Part 1, and App. A of Part 106)

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