
**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**
**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. P-87-3W; Notice 1]

**Transportation of Natural and Other
Gas by Pipeline; Petition for Waiver;
Southern Natural Gas Co.**

The Southern Natural Gas Company (Southern) has petitioned the Office of Pipeline Safety for a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.553(d), which prohibits, when uprating a pipeline, the establishment of a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP greater than would be permitted for a new pipeline segment constructed of the same materials in the same location. Anticipating increased demand for gas, Southern has requested a waiver to permit the MAOP of 7 pipeline segments to be uprated from 500 to 650 psig. The alternative is replacement of the segments at a cost of \$1.6 million. The seven segments are all in Class 3 locations, which are generally characterized as areas with 46 or more occupied buildings per mile of pipeline (see §192.5). The segments are located in St. Clair and Talladega Counties of Alabama, and they are shown on vicinity plat drawing MD-472-1, site plat drawing MD-472, and class location surveys O-NSE-34, 35, and 36, which are available in the docket.

The segments are part of Southern's 24-inch Second North Main Line. Five of the segments were constructed in 1953; the other two were constructed in 1963. The pipe in all segments is 24 inches in diameter, with 0.250-inch wall thickness. It was manufactured to API Standard 5LX, grade 52, and the pipeline was constructed in accordance with the "USAS B31.8 Standard Code for Pressure Piping. Gas Transmission and Distribution systems." The 1953 segments were pressure tested in place with gas to 750 psig, and the 1963 segments were tested with gas to 585 psig.

The MAOP's on the Second North Main Line are 750 and 650 psig, moving west to east (MP 0.0 to MP 231.0) and 500 psig in the remaining 6 miles. They were established in 1970 under §192.619(a)(3) as the highest actual operating pressure in the preceding five years. The segments in question are located in the last six miles (MP 231.795 to MP 236.646) and comprise a total of

3.4 miles. The construction of these segments is substantially the same as the rest of the Second North Main Line, which operates at a higher MAOP.

Southern states that the Second North Main Line is coated, and the coating is in good condition. They also state that there have been no leaks or failures, no operating or maintenance problems, and no shorted casings. The line has minimum cover of 36 inches.

The sections of this pipeline that were operated at 650 psig in the five years prior to November 1970 have been able to continue to operate at that pressure in Class 3 locations, after suitable hydrostatic testing under §192.611(c)(2). Because construction of the entire pipeline is substantially the same, had the 7 segments in question been operated at 650 psig during the 1965-1970 period, they too could be qualified for continued operation at 650 psig after hydrostatic testing.

In summary, the Second North Main Line is 237 miles long. The MAOP is at least 650 psig for 231 miles, including segments in Class 3. Southern plans to uprate the remaining 6 miles to a 650-psig MAOP and has requested that §192.553(d) be waived to permit them to uprate 3.4 miles of pipeline currently limited by that section.

Because the length of the pipeline segments for which the waiver has been requested is short and because there are similarly constructed pipeline segments already qualified for 650 psig in Class 3 locations along the Second North Main Line, it seems reasonable to waive §192.553(d) for these segments. There is no reason to anticipate a lesser level of safe performance for the segments for which the waiver has been requested than has been demonstrated by the other similar Class 3 segments. Thus, granting of this waiver would provide uniform treatment for the Second North Main Line taken as a unit and would not impair the safety of that line. In addition, there do not appear to be any unusual risks associated with the populations in proximity to the segments in question. In view of the foregoing, OPS proposes to grant the requested waiver.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed waiver by submitting in duplicate such data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments should identify the Docket and Notice numbers and be submitted to: Dockets Unit, Office of Hazardous Materials Transportation, Research and Spe-

cial Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 8426, Washington, DC 20590.

All comments received before October 1, 1987 will be considered before final action is taken. Late filed comments will be considered so far as practicable. All comments will be available for inspection at the Dockets Unit, Room 8426, Research and Special Programs Administration, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., before and after the closing date. No public hearing is contemplated, but one may be held at a time and place set in a Notice in the **Federal Register** if requested by an interested person desiring to comment at a public hearing and raising a genuine issue.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 26, 1987.

Richard L. Beam,
*Director, Office of Pipeline Safety Research
and Special Programs Administration.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**
**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

[Docket No. P-87-3W; Notice 2]

**Transportation of Natural and Other
Gas by Pipeline; Grant of Waiver**

The Southern Natural Gas Company (Southern) had petitioned the Office of Pipeline Safety for a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.553(d), which prohibits, when uprating a pipeline, the establishment of a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) greater than would be permitted for a new pipeline segment constructed of the same materials in the same location. Anticipating increased demand for gas, Southern requested a waiver to permit the MAOP of 7 pipeline segments to be uprated from 500 to 650 psig. The seven segments are all in Class 3 locations, which are generally characterized as areas with 46 or more occupied buildings per mile of pipeline (see §192.5). The segments are located in St. Clair and Talladega Counties of Alabama, and they are shown on vicinity plat drawing MD-472-1, site plat drawing MD-472, and class location surveys O-NSE-34, 35, and 36, which are available in the docket.

The segments are part of Southern's 24-inch Second North Main Line. Five of the segments were constructed in 1953; the other two were constructed in 1963. The MAOP's on the Second North Main Line are 750 and 650 psig, moving west to east (MP 0.0 to MP 231.0) and 500 psig in the remaining 6 miles. They were established in 1970 under §192.619 (a)(3) as the highest actual operating pressure in the preceding five years. The segments in question are located in the last six miles (MP 231.795 to MP 236.646) and comprise a total of 3.4 miles. The construction of these segments is substantially the same as the rest of the Second North Main Line, which operates at a higher MAOP.

In response to this petition, the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) issued a Notice of Petition for Waiver, inviting interested parties to comment (Notice 1) (52 FR 32986; September 1, 1987). In that notice, OPS explained why granting a waiver from §192.553(d) to permit uprating of the seven specified pipeline segments would not affect safety.

Comments were received from three

pipeline operators and one industry organization, each of whom endorsed the petition and recommended granting the waiver.

In accordance of the foregoing, OPS, by this order, finds that compliance with §192.553(d) is unnecessary for the reasons explained in Notice 1, and that the requested waiver would not be inconsistent with pipeline safety. Accordingly, Southern Natural Gas Company is granted a waiver from compliance with §192.553(d) regarding the seven segments of the Second North Main Line described above for the purpose of uprating to 650 psig.

(49 U.S.C. 1672(d); 49 CFR 1.53, and Appendix A of Part 106)

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 19, 1988.

Richard L. Beam,
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 88-1324 Filed 1-21-88; 8:45 am]