

11/02/98

Mr. Robert F. Smallcomb, Jr.
Director, Pipeline Engineering and Safety Division
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02202

Dear Mr. Smallcomb:

We have considered your letter of August 5, 1998, notifying us that the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities has granted the Boston Gas Company a waiver of compliance with 49 CFR 192.321(a) for plastic pipe across the Race Brook bridge on Lovell Road in Shirley, Massachusetts. The waiver will permit the installation of 6-inch plastic pipe above ground inside an 8-inch steel casing across the bridge. The steel-encased plastic pipe will be protected against mechanical damage and ultraviolet radiation, and meet all applicable stress limits applicable to plastic pipe.

We have no objection to the waiver. The circumstances are comparable to those of previous waivers we have approved permitting the installation of plastic pipe above ground on bridges.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Felder
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety

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cc: DPS-1,2,10,Regions,TSI,StateMail