

Mr. Stanley L. Lopata
President Carboline Company
328 Hanley Industrial Court
St. Louis, MO 63144

Dear Mr. Lopata:

This is in response to your letter of August 28, 1973, to the National Transportation Safety Board which was referred to this Office for a reply. Your letter was concerning to Exxon Corporation pipeline failure near Hearne, Texas, due to corrosion. You offered some suggestions regarding pipeline coatings which you think would prevent an occurrence of a similar situation.

The Federal regulations basically require that liquid pipelines installed after April 1, 1970, and gas pipelines installed after July 31, 1971, be coated and cathodically protected to a certain level of protection and annually monitored to assure the maintenance of that level of protection.

The choice of a coating or coating combination is left up to the user. A pipeline carrying hazardous materials and petroleum products in liquid form must comply with external coating requirements contained on Section 195.238. A gas carrying pipeline must comply with similar coating requirements contained in Section 192.461. Enclosed for your information is a copy of Federal liquid and gas regulations.

I trust this explains our position as related to pipeline coatings. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Joseph C. Caldwell
Director
Office of Pipeline Safety