

May 29, 1981

Mr. Lloyd A. Hightower  
Director, Operations  
Northwest Pipeline Corporation  
P.O. Box 1526  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

Dear Mr. Hightower:

Your letter of May 1, 1981, requests our approval of an aerial survey technique that has been developed to monitor the level of cathodic protection on a buried pipeline.

We understand the technique would be used to comply with 49 CFR 192.465(a), which requires that cathodically protected pipelines be tested annually to determine if protection is at the levels required by §192.463 and Appendix D to Part 192. These regulations do not require the use of specific testing methods, and any technique may be used that accurately shows the cathodic protection levels.

This office does not recommend one test method over another, and our approval is not needed for an operator to use a new method.

Sincerely,

Melvin A. Judah  
Acting Associate Director for  
Pipeline Safety Regulation  
Materials Transportation Bureau