

Mr. Robert S. Stone, P.E.
Chief, Gas Pipeline Safety
State of Ohio
Public Utilities Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 4366-0573

Dear Mr. Stone:

I apologize for the delay in answering your April 1 letter regarding the application of 49 CFR 192.199(g) to an East Ohio Gas Company vault.

We have examined the photographs and drawings of the vault, and believe that unless the installation is "grandfathered" or additional overpressure protection is provided elsewhere, it is violation of 49 CFR 192.199(g). The violation would be due to insufficient separation between the district regulator and the other regulators or the lack of any other means of protection, such as a barrier to prevent a potential explosion in the vault from damaging all the regulators.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Richard L. Beam
Director
Office of Pipeline Safety