
**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

Office of Pipeline Safety

[Notice W-2; Docket No. OPS-6]

**WAIVER OF GAS PIPELINE
SAFETY STANDARDS**

Notice of Hearing

to the Office of Pipeline Safety at the above address.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 21, 1971.

Joseph C. Caldwell,
Acting Director,
Office of Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 71-1060 Filed 1-22-71; 8:50 am]

On June 18, 1970, the Department of Transportation issued a waiver to the Northern Natural Gas Co. permitting the operation of a 276-mile segment of its 24-inch B pipeline between Mullinville, Kans., and Palmyra, Nebr., at a maximum operating pressure of 797 p.s.i.g. (See the Notice of Hearing, 35 F.R. 8247, May 26, 1970, and Grant of Waiver, 35 F.R. 10329, June 24, 1970.) The waiver expires on July 1, 1971.

Northern Natural has petitioned for an amendment to that waiver to extend the expiration date to July 1, 1972. Referring to the justification provided in its earlier petition, Northern Natural states that—

The subject pipeline has continued to operate at the elevated pressure without problems. We have experienced no ruptures or leaks during this period. It has been under close surveillance for possible encroachment and we have found no evidence of any form of construction near the pipeline.

It was anticipated by Northern that governmental authority would have been received in time to permit the receipt of Canadian gas by July 1, 1971. While Northern does have on file with the Canadian National Energy Board and the FPC applications for the importation of natural gas, it would be impossible at this late date, even with immediate certificates, to construct the necessary facilities to bring the Canadian gas in by the middle of this year.

In accordance with section 3(e) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. 1672(e)), notice is hereby given that a hearing on the matter of granting a waiver for the purpose stated above will be held at 10 a.m., on February 1, 1971, at the Office of Pipeline Safety, 400 Sixth Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Interested persons are invited to present their views at the hearing or to submit them in writing by February 1, 1971,

**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

Office of Pipeline Safety

[Waiver 1B; Docket No. OPS-6]

**GAS PIPELINE SAFETY
STANDARDS**

Extension of Waiver

On June 18, 1970, the Department of Transportation issued a waiver to the Northern Natural Gas Co. permitting the operation of a 276-mile segment of its 24-inch "B" pipeline between Mullinville, Kans., and Palmyra, Nebr., at a maximum operating pressure of 797 p.s.i.g. (35 F.R. 10329, June 24, 1970.) The waiver had an expiration date of July 1, 1971.

This waiver was granted while Northern Natural Gas Co. was awaiting permission from the United States and Canadian governments to import natural gas from Canada. The imported gas will permit reduction in pressure to 700 p.s.i.g. without affecting service.

On February 5, 1971, the Office of Pipeline Safety extended the expiration date of the waiver to July 1, 1972 (36 F.R. 2938; February 12, 1971). Northern Natural Gas stated in its petition for an extension that the pipeline had continued to operate at the elevated pressure without problems. Northern Natural Gas further stated that they had kept the pipeline under close surveillance for possible encroachment and had found no evidence of construction near the pipeline. Northern natural Gas has not yet received governmental authority to permit the receipt of Canadian gas by July 1, 1972. While Northern has applications for the importation of gas on file with the Canadian National Energy Board and the Federal Power Commission, it will be unable to obtain certificates in time to construct the necessary facilities by July 1, 1972. Changes in the proposed project have necessitated further hearings and the final decision on this matter has not been received.

Northern Natural Gas has therefore, petitioned to further extend the expiration date of the waiver to July 1, 1973. Northern states in this petition that the 276-mile segment of the "B" pipeline in question has continued to

operate during the past year at 797 p.s.i.g. without leaks or breaks. This follows a similar performance without leaks or breaks in the pipeline from the mid-1960's. Other facts affecting the petition remain unchanged.

It does not appear that there has been a change in any of the circumstances justifying the original waiver, and, in consideration of those facts, I find that the requested extension is not inconsistent with gas pipeline safety.

This extension of the waiver is granted under the authority of section 3(e) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. 1672(e)), and the delegation of authority to the Director, Office of Pipeline Safety, dated November 6, 1968 (33 F.R. 16468). Unless sooner suspended, amended or revoked, the waiver expires on July 1, 1973.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on
May 8, 1972.

JOSEPH C. CALDWELL,
Director,
Office of Pipeline Safety.

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