



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

JUN 18 2003

WESS

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
State of Missouri
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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UTILITY OPERATIONS
DIVISION

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has considered your letter of January 30, 2003, notifying us that the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) has granted specified members of the Missouri Association of Natural Gas Operators (MANGO) a partial waiver from the requirements of 49 CFR 192.481.

Section 192.481 states that each operator shall "at intervals not exceeding 3 years for onshore pipelines . . . reevaluate each pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere and take remedial action whenever necessary to maintain protection against atmospheric corrosion." The waiver allows the members of MANGO to perform the reevaluations at intervals not exceeding 39 months but at least once in every three calendar years.

MANGO states that this additional flexibility will enable its member companies to more efficiently use their gas safety resources. The three months of additional time allowed between reevaluations will make it easier for companies to coordinate inspections for atmospheric corrosion and leak detection.

The Commission granted the waiver proposed by MANGO and concluded it is consistent with pipeline safety. OPS has no objection to the waiver.

Sincerely,

Stacey L. Gerard
Stacey L. Gerard
Associate Administrator
for Pipeline Safety