



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

OCT 30 2013

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Ms. Mary Zanter
Pipeline Safety Program Manager
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

PHMSA-2013-0202

Dear Ms. Zanter:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) reviewed your letter of August 16, 2013, notifying us that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, pending PHMSA's acceptance, approved a state waiver to the Garretson Natural Gas Utilities natural gas operations in South Dakota. The waiver grants modification of compliance with 49 CFR §192.285(c) as adopted by South Dakota pursuant to 49 USC 60105. This regulation requires a person making plastic pipe joints to be requalified under an applicable procedure if that person has not made any joints under that procedure during the preceding 12-month period, or has 3 joints or 3 percent of the joints made, whichever is greater, found unacceptable by testing under 49 CFR §192.513.

The Garretson Natural Gas Utilities requested this waiver to allow for flexibility in scheduling the qualification tests for municipal employees who make plastic pipe joints. The waiver would allow requalification tests to be conducted during the time of year when fewer joints are made, minimizing the impact of any delays prior to the construction season. Also, the window of time for action is consistent with the requirements of other regulations that require periodic action.

PHMSA does not object to the waiver of 49 CFR § 192.285(c) provided that the Garretson Natural Gas Utilities, establish alternate qualification procedures for its employees as described below.

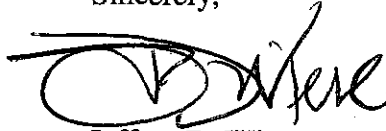
This waiver requires the Garretson Natural Gas Utilities to establish written alternative qualification procedures to qualify a person making plastic pipe joints under an applicable procedure once each calendar year at intervals not exceeding 15 months, regardless of whether or not the person has made a plastic pipe joint within the calendar year; and to requalify a person after any production joint is found unacceptable by testing under §192.513.

Ms. Mary Zanter
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for Garretson Natural Gas Utilities
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If you wish to discuss this or any other pipeline safety matter, my staff would be pleased to assist you. Please call John Gale, Director of Regulations at 202-366-0434 for regulatory matters or Kenneth Lee, Director of Engineering and Research, at 202-366-2694 for technical matters. Thank you for your continued efforts in pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Wiese". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "W".

Jeffrey D. Wiese
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety