

to install and operate approximately 4,200 feet of four inch Fiberspar® fiberglass reinforced polyethylene plastic pipe in its Dundee Storage Field located in Schuler County, New York.

As a condition of the grant of this waiver, Columbia must—

- Apply this waiver only to piping within its Dundee Storage Field;
- Apply this waiver in non High Consequence Area(s);
- Apply this waiver in Class 1 location(s) only;
- Develop qualifications on joining methods through Fiberspar® installation training courses and field training; qualifications and joining methods must be available to OPS Eastern Region upon request;

- Apply this waiver to five storage wells and six lines as stated in the waiver request;
- Perform initial pipeline installation with qualified Fiberspar® personnel present and overseeing the installation; notify OPS Eastern Region of the date, time, and location of initial installation and provide opportunity for OPS Eastern Region to witness installation;

- Schedule five inspections for 1, 2.5, 5, 7.5, and 10 years after installation; remove a minimum ten foot pipe segment for inspection and perform both non-destructive and destructive testing on the pipe material. Non-destructive testing shall focus on the composition and degradation of the fiberglass reinforced polyethylene plastic pipe material and the destructive testing shall be a hydrotest to burst pressure. The results of the inspections and tests must be available to OPS Eastern Region upon request; and

- Submit Fiberspar® fiberglass reinforced polyethylene plastic pipe to ASTM for testing. If Fiberspar® fails to submit this pipe material to ASTM for testing and have this material listed as an acceptable material meeting ASTM requirement for new materials and have a listing with the plastics pipe institute (PPI) within five years of the pipe's original installation, Columbia must discontinue use of this pipe material at the end of the 5th year following initial installation and comply with the regulatory requirements of 49 CFR §§ 192.53(c), 192.121, 192.123, and 192.619(a). If it is determined that the commodity transported in this pipeline is not compatible with, and proves detrimental to, this pipe material, OPS reserves the right, as a condition of this waiver, to curtail or discontinue the use of this pipe material.

If Columbia does not comply with any of these requirements, or if circumstances indicate that the waiver compromises the safety of the pipeline,

people or property, OPS reserves the right to terminate this waiver.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 60118(c) and 49 CFR 1.53.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 25, 2005.

**Theodore L. Willke,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 05-4121 Filed 3-2-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-60-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-05-20323; Notice 1]

#### Pipeline Safety: Petition for Waiver; Northern Natural Gas Company

**AGENCY:** Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice; petition for waiver.

**SUMMARY:** Northern Natural Gas Company (NNG) petitioned the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) for a waiver from the requirements of 49 CFR 192.625(b)(3), Odorization of gas. This section requires that a transmission line located in a Class 3 or Class 4 location that transports a combustible gas in a distribution line must contain a natural odorant or be odorized so that the gas is readily detectable by a person with a normal sense of smell unless, in the case of a lateral line which transports gas to a distribution center, at least 50 percent of the line is in a Class 1 or Class 2 location.

**DATES:** Persons interested in submitting written comments on the waiver request described in this Notice must do so by April 4, 2005. Late filed comments will be considered so far as practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by mailing or delivering an original and two copies to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays when the facility is closed. Alternatively, you may submit written comments to the docket electronically at the following Web address: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

All written comments should identify the docket and notice numbers stated in the heading of this notice. Anyone who wants confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped

postcard. To file written comments electronically, after logging on to <http://dms.dot.gov>, click on "Comment/Submissions." You can also read comments and other material in the docket. General information about the Federal pipeline safety program is available at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Reynolds by phone at 202-366-2786, by fax at 202-366-4566, by mail at DOT, PHMSA, OPS, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, or by e-mail at [james.reynolds@dot.gov](mailto:james.reynolds@dot.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The gas pipeline safety regulation at 49 CFR 192.625(b)(3) requires that a transmission line located in a Class 3 or Class 4 location that transports a combustible gas in a distribution line must contain a natural odorant or be odorized so that the gas is readily detectable by a person with a normal sense of smell unless, in the case of a lateral line which transports gas to a distribution center, at least 50 percent of the line is in a Class 1 or Class 2 location.

NNG is requesting a waiver from the regulatory requirements of § 192.625(b)(3) for three of its transmission lines. The transmission lines are located in, and transport natural gas to, town border stations (TBS) located in Rippey, Iowa; LaCrescent, Minnesota; and LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

##### Justification

NNG is requesting the waiver for the following reasons:

- The integrity assessment of the Rippey, Iowa, LaCrescent, Minnesota, and LaCrosse, Wisconsin Branch Lines show a low likelihood of failure. The installation of odorization equipment in the road right-of-way of the Rippey, Iowa Branch Line would present a safety hazard to the public and require above ground piping. This would increase the likelihood of outside force damage to the Rippey, Iowa Branch Line.

- The take-off for the LaCrescent, Minnesota Branch Line is situated in a wetland area in the flood plain of the Mississippi River; installation of an odorizer on this line could cause an environmental impact to the river. In

addition, regular maintenance and odorant delivery to the LaCrescent, Minnesota Branch Line could present a traffic hazard and the potential for a hazardous material spill in a wetland area.

- The take-off for the LaCrosse, Wisconsin Branch Line is in a low, sandy, Mississippi River flood plain area. Installation of an odorizer on this line could cause an environmental impact to the Mississippi River flood plain. Lastly, access to this line is limited. This would make it difficult to deliver odorant to the pipeline.

NNG provided the following additional information on its pipelines for consideration of its waiver request:

**1. Rippey, Iowa Branch Line—IAB64601 (Mile Post (MP) 0.000–0.034)**

Line IAB64601 is 2-inch in diameter, 0.034 miles (180 feet) in length, and begins at a side valve on the Perry, Iowa branch line, IAB64401. Line IAB64601 supplies gas to the town of Ripley, Iowa through the Rippey #1 TBS. This entire line is in Class 3 area.

**2. LaCrescent, Minnesota Branch Line—MNB73701 (MP 0.000–0.369)**

Line MNB73701 is 4-inch in diameter, 0.369 miles (1,848 feet) in length, and begins at a side valve on the LaCrosse branch line, MNB73201. Line MNB73701 is located in a wetland area that is part of the Mississippi River flood plain and supplies gas to the town of LaCrescent, Minnesota through the LaCrescent #1 TBS. Line MNB73701 is Class 1 from MP 0.000–0.051 and Class 3 from MP 0.051–0.369.

**3. LaCrosse, Wisconsin Branch Line—WIB24101 (MP 0.000–0.119)**

Line WIB24101 is 12-inch in diameter, 0.119 miles (628 feet) in length, and begins at a buried tap on the Tomah, Wisconsin, branch line WIB11901. Line WIB24101 supplies gas to the town of LaCrosse, Wisconsin through the LaCrosse #1 TBS. This entire line is in Class 3 area.

NNG believes it considered all practical alternatives for the placement of odorization equipment on its pipelines. They concluded that none were feasible.

**Proposed Alternatives**

NNG proposes the following alternatives and believes that these alternatives provide a higher level of safety than those required by the pipeline safety regulations. NNG proposes to:

- Perform leak surveys along the entire length of the Ripley, Iowa; LaCrescent, Minnesota; and LaCrosse,

Wisconsin pipelines. All surveys will be performed quarterly and with leak detection equipment.

- Install and maintain additional pipeline markers along each pipeline.

**OPS Review**

OPS is publishing this notice in the **Federal Register** to provide an opportunity for public comment. After OPS has considered any comments it receives in response to this Notice, it will make a final determination granting or denying the waiver as proposed, or with modifications. If the waiver is granted, and OPS subsequently determines that the effect of the waiver is no longer consistent with pipeline safety, OPS may revoke the waiver at its sole discretion. This Notice is OPS's only request for public comment before making its final decision in this matter. At the conclusion of the comment period, OPS will make a determination on the proposed waiver and publish its decision in the **Federal Register**.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 60118 (c) and 49 CFR 1.53.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 25, 2005.

**Theodore L. Willke,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 05–4124 Filed 3–2–05; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 34661]

**Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Clark County, WA**

Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc. (CBRW),<sup>1</sup> a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire by lease and to operate approximately 19 miles of rail line owned by Clark County, WA, between milepost 14.1 at Battle Ground, WA, and milepost 33.1 at or near Chelatchie, WA.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CBRW states that it will conduct these operations under the name "Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad."

<sup>2</sup> As filed, CBRW seeks to lease and operate approximately 33.1 miles of rail line in Clark County, WA. However, in *Columbia Basin Railroad Company, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Clark County, WA*, STB Finance Docket No. 34472 (STB served Mar. 11, 2004), CBRW was authorized to acquire by lease and operate approximately 14.1 miles of the 33.1 miles of rail line, between milepost 0.0 at or near North Vancouver/Vancouver Junction, WA, and milepost 14.1 at Battle Ground, WA. Because CBRW has already been granted authority to lease and operate this segment of the

CBRW certifies that its projected revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in the creation of a Class II or a Class I rail carrier. The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after February 10, 2005, the effective date of the exemption.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34661, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423–0001. Also, a copy of each pleading must be served on Rose-Michele Weinryb, 1300 19th Street, NW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20036.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: February 22, 2005.

By the Board, David M. Konschnick,  
Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 05–4100 Filed 3–2–05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

[STB Finance Docket No. 34660]

**Georgia Central Railway, L.P.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Rail line of CSX Transportation, Inc.**

Georgia Central Railway, L.P. (Georgia Central), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire by purchase from CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) and operate approximately 57.2 miles of rail line between milepost SK 0.8 at Macon, and milepost SK 58.0 at East Dublin, in Bibb, Twiggs, Wilkinson, and Laurens Counties, GA.<sup>1</sup>

Georgia Central indicates that the parties contemplate consummating the transaction on or about February 28, 2005. Georgia Central certifies that its

involved line, authority will only be granted here for CBRW to lease and operate the 19-mile segment between milepost 14.1 and milepost 33.1.

<sup>1</sup> Georgia Central currently leases the line and underlying right-of-way (ROW) from CSXT. After the transaction, Georgia Central will own the line but continue to lease the underlying ROW from CSXT. Georgia Central will also continue to be the operator of the line.