

October 7, 1974

Mr. Anthony Creston
Chief, Pipeline Safety
Arkansas Public Service Commission
Justice Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Creston:

This refers to your letter of August 30, 1974, regarding the reporting requirements of 49 CFR Part 191.

First, you ask whether the requirement of section *191.5* that an operator give notice of “any leak” applies to leaks on pipelines not owned or operated by a gas company as well as company owned or operated lines. The requirement of section 191.5 applies to pipeline facilities used by an operator in the transportation of gas, including certain customer-owned lines. An operator is deemed to use a line to transport gas up to the point where the gas is both sold and delivered. In the case of customer-owned lines, sale and delivery normally coincide at the downstream side of a customer meter. Thus, a gas company is not required to report a leak which occurs on a customer-owned line downstream from the meter because the leak is not on a line which the company uses to transport gas. Leaks which occur on a customer-owned line upstream from a meter must be reported, however, because the company uses the line to transport gas.

Secondly, under the requirement of section 191.5, leaks must be reported “at the earliest practical moment following discovery.” You ask, in the event of a gas explosion, if a telephonic notice must be given immediately after the gas company learns of the explosion or may notice be delayed until a gas leak is found on a company owned or operated line. Under section 191.5 a gas leak which results in an explosion must be reported unless there is reason to believe that the leak probably did not occur on a pipeline used by the operator in the transportation of gas.

We trust our response is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Caldwell
Director
Office of Pipeline Safety