

September 19, 1974

Mr. Eugene J. Walsh
Law Department
Columbia Gas Distribution Companies
99 North Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. Walsh:

Thank you for your letter of August 29, 1974, requesting a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 192.753(a) for certain cast iron mains to permit the use of the Avonseal process in sealing bell and spigot joints.

We assume the mains to which you refer are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission under the Natural Gas Act. If this is true, the mains fall under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Public Utilities Commission derived from section 5(a) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 USC 1674) for purposes of enforcing the Federal gas pipeline safety standards under State law. In accordance with section 3(e) of this Act, the Ohio Commission may grant waivers from compliance with the Federal standards. Because of this unique Federal and State relationship, the Ohio Commission is the proper forum at which to present your request for waiver rather than this office.

We are enclosing a copy of a letter dated August 13, 1974, interpreting the use of the Avonseal process. This letter states that we will publish a notice of proposed rule making to change §192.753(a) to permit use of the process in lieu of mechanical leak clamps.

We appreciate your interest in pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Caldwell
Director
Office of Pipeline Safety