

July 16, 1996

Mr. Robert F. Smallcomb
Director, Pipeline Engineering and Safety Division
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
100 Cambridge St.
Boston MA 02202

Dear Mr. Smallcomb:

We have considered your letter of May 13, 1996, advising us that the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities has granted the Bay State Gas Company a waiver of compliance with the 100 psig design pressure limitation for plastic pipe under 49 CFR 192.123(a). The waiver allows the gas company to temporarily operate particular plastic pipe at 105 psig.

As you pointed out, we have previously considered the safety of exceeding 100 psig in our approval of two New York waivers involving the operation of plastic pipe as high as 124 psig. Since the present waiver involves similar safety considerations, we have no objection to the waiver.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Felder
Associate Administrator
for Pipeline Safety

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cc: DPS-1,2,10,20 Region
TSI - E-Mail, State Mailing