

Mr. Al Clarke
Gas Piping Technology Committee
Panhandle Eastern Corporation
544 Westheimer
Houston TX 77056

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Thank you for your message of October 13, 1995, concerning the safety regulation for uprating gas pipelines to a pressure that produces a hoop stress of less than 30 percent of specified minimum yield strength (49 CFR 192.557). You asked us to clarify whether this regulation requires the uprated pressure to be based on a pressure test.

In this regard, I have enclosed a copy of a letter dated May 6, 1974, to William R. Johnson, Secretary, California Public Utilities Commission. Responding to a similar inquiry, we said that under §192.557 the uprating of steel pipelines to be operated at 100 psig or more must be based on a pressure test. This interpretation was driven by the limitations on operating pressure prescribed by §192.619(a). Essentially, §192.557 does not permit operators to skirt §192.619(a) when uprating steel pipelines.

I trust you find this information helpful. If we can be of any further assistance, please call me at (202)366-4565.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Hurliaux, P.E.
Director for Technology and Regulations
Office of Pipeline Safety

Enclosure

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cc: DPS-1, 2, 10, 20, Regions
TSIEMail,StateMailing,RdgFile