

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

In the Matter of the Request of Questar Gas)
Company for Waiver of Federal Pipeline)
Safety Regulations in Order to Utilize High)
Pressure Polyamide 11 Plastic Pipe in a)
Demonstration Project)

DOCKET NO. 02-057-07
REPORT AND ORDER

ISSUED: August 1, 2002

By the Commission:

Questar Gas Company seeks to conduct a demonstration project for a new type of high pressure plastic pipe, known as Polyamide 11 or PA-11. In order to do this, Questar seeks waiver from provisions of portions of the Commission's regulations on pipeline safety for this project.

Questar proposes to install up to fifteen miles of PA-11 pipe within its service territory in Utah for purposes of demonstrating the viability of the new pipe technology as a possible replacement for steel in certain high pressure applications. The PA-11 pipe does not currently meet the requirements of federal pipeline safety regulations for the intended application. The federal regulations are adopted in this Commission's rules. Questar is, therefore, requesting waivers from this Commission and from U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety for this project. Specifically Questar requests waiver of Part 192.123(a), to allow operation of the PA-11 pipe at pressures greater than 100 psig, and Part 192.121 to result in an increase in the design factor in the design formula within Part 192.121 from 0.32 to 0.40.

The Division of Public Utilities has investigated the request. As part of its investigation, a technical conference was held with Questar, the Gas Technology Institute, and the Division pipeline safety staff. The Division reports that it has received sufficient information to recommend approval of the waivers with five specific conditions. We concur with the Division's recommendation.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that:

1. For purposes of this test project only, Questar is granted a waiver from the pressure limits Part 192.123(a) to allow operation of PA-11 pipe at pressures up to 200 psig as calculated with a design factor of 0.40 for the proposed system.
2. For purposes of this test project only, Questar is granted a waiver of Part 192.121 to result in an increase in the design factor in the design formula within Part 101.121 from 0.32 to 0.40.
3. Questar is to provide sufficient notification to the Division of Public Utilities pipeline safety personnel to afford the Division the opportunity to be present during the installation and testing of the PA-11 pipe.
4. The PA-11 pipe must be installed using joining procedures recommended by the manufacturer.
5. The PA-11 pipe must be installed in a Class 1 area for those tests which exceed the design pressure of 160 psig (calculated using the 0.32 design factor).
6. Installation shall be by open trench only. Directional drilling must not be used.
7. A minimum of six (6) inches of screened shading material of 3/8 inch minus shall be provided below, above, and on

the sides of the installed pipe.

8. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 63-46b-13, an aggrieved party may file, within 20 days after the date of this Order, a written request for reconsideration by the Commission. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 54-7-15, failure to file such a request precludes judicial review of the Order. If the Commission fails to issue an order within 20 days after the filing of such a request, the request shall be deemed denied. Judicial review of this Order may be sought pursuant to the Utah Administrative Procedures Act (Utah Code Ann. §§ 63-46b-1 et seq.)

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 1st day of August 2002.

/s/ Stephen F. Mecham, Chairman

/s/ Constance B. White, Commissioner

/s/ Richard M. Campbell, Commissioner

Attest:

/s/ Julie Orchard

Commission Secretary

G#30300