

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA)**

[Docket No. RSPA-98-4470]

**Pipeline Safety: Meeting Notification—Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Advisory Committee****AGENCY:** Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of technical hazardous liquid pipeline safety standards advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C. App. 1) notice is given of a public meeting of the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (THLPSSC) to be conducted by the Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS). The meeting will be held on Monday, August 13, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The THLPSSC is a statutorily mandated advisory committee that advises RSPA's OPS on proposed safety standards and other safety policies for hazardous liquid pipelines. The committee consists of 15 members—five each representing government, industry, and the public.

RSPA issued a final rule, "Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas (Hazardous Liquid Operators With 500 or More Miles of Pipeline)," which was published on December 1, 2000 (65 FR 75378). In the final rule, RSPA sought comment on 49 CFR Section 195.452(h) because it varied considerably from the proposed rule. A copy of the final rule can be found on the Internet—OPS Docket Management System <http://dms.dot.gov> (Docket Number 6355). The THLPSSC will discuss comments received and vote on Section 195.452(h) as published on December 1, 2000.

The THLPSSC will also discuss and vote on the proposed rule "Pipeline Integrity in High Consequence Areas (Hazardous Liquid Pipelines With 500 Miles or Less of Pipeline)," which was published on March 25, 2001 (66 FR 15821). A copy of the proposed rule can be found on the Internet—OPS Docket Management System <http://dms.dot.gov> (Docket Number 7408).

**Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities**

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the

meeting, contact Juan Carlos Martinez at (202) 366-1933.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cheryl Whetsel, OPS, (202) 366-4431 or Richard Huriaux, OPS, (202) 366-4565, regarding the subject matter of this notice.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Members of the public may attend the meeting in person at the Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, Room 7128, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Due to limited space, anyone wishing to attend or participate should notify Juan Carlos Martinez, at (202) 366-1933, not later than July 30, 2001.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 60102, 60115.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 28, 2001.

**Stacey L. Gerard,**

*Associate Administrator.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Research and Special Programs Administration**

[Docket No. RSPA-01-8972; Notice 1]

**Pipeline Safety: Intent to Consider Waiver and Environmental Assessment of Waiver for Transwestern Pipeline Company****AGENCY:** Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of intent to consider waiver and environmental assessment of waiver.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) is conducting a Risk Management Demonstration Program with pipeline operators to determine how risk management might be used to complement and improve the existing Federal pipeline safety regulatory process. OPS selected Enron Transportation Services Company/Transwestern Pipeline Company (ETS/TW) as a candidate for participation in the Demonstration Program; subsequently, OPS and ETS/TW held discussions as part of an approval process. OPS has not yet approved ETS/TW's application. ETS/TW identified a portion of its system where it believed performing alternative risk control activities in lieu of compliance with current regulations would result in a comparable margin of safety and environmental protection. At an intermediate stage in the project approval process, ETS/TW requested

OPS waive certain regulatory requirements relating to class location changes for three pipeline segments. ETS/TW indicated that it would carry out the proposed alternative risk control activities in lieu of compliance with these regulations.

This Notice announces OPS's intent to consider granting a waiver from 49 CFR 192.611 to allow ETS/TW to perform the proposed alternative risk control activities. Among the factors that are crucial to OPS's decision to consider granting the waiver are ETS/TW's selection as a candidate for the Risk Management Demonstration Program and ETS/TW's subsequent participation in a consultation process with OPS. In addition, OPS has found that the overall effect of the proposed waiver is consistent with pipeline safety, because ETS/TW's proposed activities achieve a margin of safety and environmental protection comparable to that achieved by compliance with 49 CFR 192.611. Within 90 days of OPS's adoption of new rules related to integrity management of natural gas pipelines<sup>1</sup>, ETS/TW will be required to re-evaluate the effects of its proposed alternative risk control activities so that OPS can determine whether the terms of the waiver continue to be appropriate and whether the overall effect of the waiver remains consistent with pipeline safety. This Notice also provides an environmental assessment of ETS/TW's proposed alternative activities. Based on this environmental assessment, OPS has preliminarily concluded that this waiver will have no significant environmental impacts. OPS seeks public comment on the proposed waiver and the environmental assessment, so that it may consider and address these comments before making a final decision on this matter.

**ADDRESSES:** OPS requests that comments to this Notice or about this environmental assessment be submitted on or before August 6, 2001 so they can be considered before a final determination is made whether to grant the waiver to ETS/TW. Written comments should be sent to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Comments should identify the docket number RSPA-01-8972. Persons should submit the original comment document and one (1) copy. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of

<sup>1</sup> OPS is considering additional regulations to enhance pipeline integrity in high consequence areas for natural gas transmission pipelines. Additional information on integrity management rule-related activities is available on the OPS web site at <http://ops.dot.gov>.