National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and anticipated legislative action in this regard, a pipeline industry Task Force has developed a consensus standard establishing guidelines for pipeline operators on development, implementation, and evaluation of public awareness programs for operating pipeline systems, API Recommended Practice (RP) 1162, *Public Awareness Programs for Pipeline Operators.* The Task Force included representatives from gas and hazardous liquid pipeline companies, local gas distribution companies, gathering pipeline system operators, and pipeline industry trade associations. Additional comments were solicited from local public officials, the public, and other interested parties. Representatives from RSPA/OPS and the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) observed and provided comments on the development of the standard.

API RP 1162 was balloted and approved following the guidelines of both the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). After revisions to reflect comments, it was published as a national consensus standard in September 2003.

RSPA/OPS considers that ''public education programs,'' as used in the PSIA, and ''public awareness programs,'' as used in API RP 1162, are the same concept. The level of public education and awareness regarding pipeline operations and safety can be improved only through education and communication programs that are demonstrated to be effective. Therefore, RSPA/OPS plans to initiate a new rulemaking, setting minimum requirements for pipeline operators to develop, implement, and manage public education programs. RSPA/OPS will incorporate by reference into the new rule, all or portions of the guidance provided in API RP 1162.

RSPA/OPS has evaluated the PSIA requirements that operators review and modify their public education programs and submit their completed programs upon request to RSPA/OPS or the appropriate state pipeline safety agency. We have determined that the intent of the requirements can be met and pipeline safety can be best served in the short-term by having pipeline operators document their compliance with the PSIA by completing a formal self-assessment of their public education programs and evaluating these programs against the guidelines provided in API RP 1162. Therefore, RSPA/OPS has developed a self-assessment form that will help operators identify gaps in their public education programs and improvements needed to align those programs with the requirements of API RP 1162.

Operators must complete and submit self-assessments of their public education programs to RSPA/OPS no later than December 17, 2003, to meet the deadline established in the PSIA. Operators are encouraged to complete and submit the self-assessment online. Operators are encouraged to also provide copies of their self-assessments to the appropriate state pipeline safety agencies. The self-assessment forms can be found online at *http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/edu/rp1162.htm.*

Alternatively, a Microsoft Word form for electronic completion of the self-assessment form may be downloaded and completed offline. Or, a file for hard-copy printing and completion of the self-assessment may be downloaded and completed offline. Self-assessment forms downloaded and completed offline must be submitted to RSPA/OPS for receipt no later than December 17, 2003.

Operators will be required in the future to submit their public education program plans to the RSPA/OPS for review. Time frames for submission will be determined by the RSPA/OPS and operators will be notified. These plans should identify how the operators will address gaps and make improvements in their public education programs. Operator public education programs will be subject to inspection by RSPA/OPS and the appropriate state pipeline safety agency.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 19, 2003.

James K. O'Steen,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 03–29392 Filed 11–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA–03–15733; Notice 1]

Pipeline Safety: Request for Waiver; Portland Natural Gas Transmission System

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA); U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to consider waiver request.

SUMMARY: PNGTS Operating Co., LLC, operator of the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS), requested a waiver of compliance with the regulatory requirements at 49 CFR 192.611 to confirm or revise the maximum allowable operating pressure of its natural gas pipeline after Class location changes occurred in areas associated with two sections of the pipeline totaling 595 feet in length in West Stewartstown, New Hampshire.

DATES: Persons interested in submitting written comments on the waiver request described in this notice must do so by December 26, 2003. Late filed comments will be considered so far as practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by mailing or delivering an original and two copies to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays when the facility is closed. Alternatively, you may submit written comments to the docket electronically at the following web address: *http://dms.dot.gov.*

All written comments should identify the docket and notice numbers stated in the heading of this notice. Anyone who wants confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. To file written comments electronically, after logging on to *http://dms.dot.gov,* click on ''Comment/Submissions.'' You can also read comments and other material in the docket. General information about the Federal pipeline safety program is available at *http://ops.dot.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Reynolds by phone at 202–366–2786, by fax at 202–366–4566, by mail at DOT/RSPA, Office of Pipeline Safety, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, or by e-mail at *james.reynolds@rspa.dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 19, 2003, PNGTS Operating Co., LLC, operator of the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System, submitted a request seeking a waiver of compliance with the regulatory requirements at 49 CFR 192.611 to confirm or revise the maximum allowable operating pressure of its natural gas pipeline after Class location changes occurred in areas associated with two sections of the pipeline totaling 595 feet in length in West Stewartstown, New Hampshire (the ''waiver segments''). In lieu of complying with the § 192.611 requirements, PNGTS proposes to conduct certain alternative risk control activities on the pipeline that exceed the

minimum requirements of Part 192. These activities include performing internal inspections at six-year intervals on the entire 24-inch mainline, annual close-interval cathodic protection surveys on the waiver segments, a direct current voltage gradient survey on the waiver segments, direct assessment and repair of any anomalies identified by the inspections and electrical surveys, and more frequent ground and aerial surveillance patrols and instrumented leak surveys on the pipeline.

The Federal pipeline safety regulations categorize the geographic areas along natural gas pipelines according to the population densities in the vicinity of pipeline segments. There are four classification levels with areas having the lowest population density designated as Class 1, while areas with the highest population density are designated as Class 4. The regulations impose more stringent pipeline design and operation requirements as the Class location increases. Operators are required to periodically monitor these geographic areas and when a Class location changes to a higher Class, operators are required to confirm or revise the maximum pressure at which the pipeline is allowed to operate within a specified period of time. In the absence of a qualifying pressure test, this generally means that the operator must reduce the operating pressure or replace portions of the pipe with higher strength pipe.

The PNGTS system was constructed in 1998 and 1999 and includes a 24-inch diameter section 143.8 miles in length (the ''mainline''). The established maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) for the pipeline is 1440 psig. Pursuant to 49 CFR 192.609, PNGTS completed a Class location change study in February 2002. Due to construction activity, several areas along the mainline that were previously categorized as Class 1 locations were re-categorized as Class 3 locations. Based on the specifications of the pipe used in two of these areas, PNGTS determined that the MAOP confirmation criteria referenced in Section 192.611 were not met. The first area is located at Mile Post (MP) 2.55 and consists of 0.343-inch wall thickness, API 5L, Grade X–70 steel pipe (''Waiver Segment 1''). The second area is located at MP 3.30 and consists of pipe of the same material specifications (''Waiver Segment 2'').

Waiver Request

PNGTS requested a waiver of compliance with the requirements at 49 CFR 192.611 to confirm or revise the pipeline's MAOP based on the following reasons:

1. The size of the geographic areas associated with the waiver segments is minimal. The area associated Waiver Segment 1 is only 440 feet in length. The area associated with Waiver Segment 2 is only 155 feet in length.
2. The construction activity that resulted in the Class location change was minimal and is not expected to expand further. The construction consisted of several mobile homes and two multi-tenant structures containing four units each on the perimeter of a tree farm. The multi-tenant units cross the 660-foot Class boundary by distances of only 0.7 to 22.8 feet. In addition, the mobile home park is now at capacity and is unlikely to expand due to the sloping terrain in the area and property ownership constraints.
3. The pipeline was constructed as recently as 1999. Having been in service for only four years, the pipeline is nearly new and in excellent condition. No deficiencies were identified in a baseline close-interval cathodic protection survey conducted in 2000, and no anomalies were identified on or near the waiver segments in a baseline internal inspection conducted in 2002 with both magnetic flux leakage and geometry in-line inspection tools.
4. The pipeline's operating history has been trouble free. No leaks have been identified anywhere on the PNGTS pipeline since it was put into service.
5. The pipeline is equipped with a satellite-linked supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, including pressure transmitters and mainline valves equipped with remote control actuators enabling PNGTS to identify and promptly mitigate any releases in the vicinity of the waiver segments should they occur.
6. The proposed alternative risk control activities would provide a margin of safety and environmental protection that equals or exceeds that of the measures required under § 192.611 in the absence of a waiver.
7. Granting the waiver would avoid the delivery interruptions and costs associated with excavating and replacing the pipe in the specified areas.
8. The proposed alternative risk control activities would benefit virtually the entire pipeline system, as opposed to only the 595 foot portion associated with the Class location change.

Proposed Alternative Risk Control Activities

PNGTS proposes to perform the following risk control activities to provide a comparable margin of safety in lieu of the requirements to confirm or revise the pipeline's MAOP under § 192.611:

1. The performance of internal inspections on the entire 143.8 miles of 24-inch pipeline in 2008 and subsequent internal inspections at intervals not to exceed six years. The internal inspections would be performed using both magnetic flux leakage and geometry in-line inspection tools capable of detecting metal loss, dent-like deformations, and other integrity threats;
2. The performance of annual close-interval cathodic protection surveys on the Class 3 sections of the pipeline extending from MP 2.56 to MP 2.90 and from MP 3.30 to MP 3.39, as well as an additional 1000 feet of the Class 1 or 2 pipe on both the upstream and downstream ends of these sections;
3. The performance of a direct current voltage gradient survey on the Class 3 sections of the pipeline extending from MP 2.56 to MP 2.90 and from MP 3.30 to MP 3.39, as well as an additional 1000 feet of the Class 1 or 2 pipe on both the upstream and downstream ends of these sections;
4. The performance of direct assessment and appropriate repairs or other remedial measures for all anomalies or other indications of corrosion identified by the internal inspections in Item 1, or the electrical surveys in Items 2 and 3, regardless of the size or depth of the anomaly;
5. The performance of weekly aerial patrols (weather permitting) and quarterly ground road crossing patrols over the entire 143.8 miles of 24-inch pipeline. The ground road crossing patrols would include leak surveys on all road crossings located in the proposed waiver segments and corresponding Class 3 portions of the pipeline using appropriate leak detection equipment;
6. The performance of semiannual leak surveys on the portion of the pipeline extending from MP 0.0 to MP 6.80 using appropriate leak detection equipment.

RSPA is considering granting the requested waiver because of the minimal distance by which the structures cross the Class boundary, the age and condition of the pipeline, and the additional inspection and monitoring activities stipulated above on which the waiver would be conditioned. After RSPA has considered the comments it receives in response to this Notice, it will make a final determination granting or denying the waiver as proposed, or with modifications, and what additional terms and conditions it may be subject to. If the waiver is granted, and RSPA subsequently determines that the effect of the waiver is inconsistent with

pipeline safety, RSPA may revoke the waiver at its sole discretion. This Notice is RSPA's only request for public comment before making its final decision in this matter.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 19, 2003.

Richard D. Huriaux,

Manager, Regulations, Office of Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 03–29393 Filed 11–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

November 18, 2003.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 11000, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 26, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545–1851.

Regulation Project Number: REG–124312–02 Final.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Golden Parachute Payments.

Description: These regulations deny a deduction for excess parachute payments. A parachute payment is a payment in the nature of a disqualified individual that is contingent on a change in ownership or control of a corporation. Certain payments, including payments from a small corporation, are exempt from the definition of parachute payment if certain requirements are met (such as shareholder approval and disclosure requirements).

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 800.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 15 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 12,000 hours.

Clearance Officer: R. Joseph Durbala, (202) 622–3634, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6411–03, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20224.

Reviewer: Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., (202) 395–7316, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Mary A. Able,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 03–29396 Filed 11–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

November 18, 2003.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 11000, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 26, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545–0390.

Form Number: IRS Form 5306.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Application for Approval of Prototype or Employer Sponsored Individual Retirement Account.

Description: This application is used by employers who want to establish an individual retirement account trust to be used by their employees. The application is also used by persons who want to establish approved prototype individual retirement accounts or annuities. The data collected is used to determine if plans may be approved.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeeping: 600.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent/Recordkeeper:

Recordkeeping—11 hr., 43 min.
Learning about the law or the form—35 min.
Preparing and sending the form to the IRS—49 min.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 7,878 hours.

OMB Number: 1545–0790.

Form Number: IRS Form 8082.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Notice of Inconsistent Treatment or Administrative Adjustment Request (AAR).

Description: Internal Revenue code (IRC) sections 6222 and 6227 require partners to notify IRS by filing Form 8082 when they (1) treat partnership items inconsistent with the partnership's treatment (6222), and (2) change previously reported partnership items (6227). Sections 6224 and 860F extend this requirement to shareholders of S corporations and residuals of REMICs. Also, section 6241 and 6034A(c) extend this requirement to partners in electing large partnerships and beneficiaries of estates and trusts.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 10,700.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent/Recordkeeper:

Recordkeeping—4 hr., 18 min.
Learning about the law or the form—1 hr., 23 min.
Preparing and sending the form to the IRS—1 hr., 31 min.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 76,557 hours.

OMB Number: 1545–1034.

Form Number: IRS Form 8582–CR.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Passive Activity Credit Limitations.

Description: Under section 469, credits from passive activities, to the extent they do not exceed the tax attributable to net passive income, are not allowed. Form 8582–CR is used to figure the passive activity credit allowed and the amount of credit to be reported on the tax return.

Respondents: Individuals or households, Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 900,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Respondent/Recordkeeper:

Recordkeeping—2 hr., 4 min.
Learning about the law or the form—8 hr., 7 min.
Preparing the form—4 hr., 38 min.
Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS—1 hr., 9 min.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 7,152,300 hours.

OMB Number: 1545–1096.

Form Number: IRS Form 9117.