



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. PHMSA-2006-24058]

Pipeline Safety: Request for Special Permit

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA); DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: PHMSA is publishing this notice to solicit public comments on a request for one (1) new special permit segment and one (1) special permit segment extension submitted by Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS), a subsidiary of TC Energy. PNGTS is seeking relief from compliance with certain requirements in the Federal pipeline safety regulations. At the conclusion of the 30-day comment period, PHMSA will review the comments received from this notice as part of its evaluation to grant or deny the special permit request.

DATES: Submit any comments regarding this special permit request by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Comments should reference the docket number for this special permit request and may be submitted in the following ways:

- E-Gov Web Site: <http://www.regulations.gov>. *This site allows the public to enter comments on any Federal Register notice issued by any agency.*

- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

- *Mail:* Docket Management System: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* Docket Management System: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20590, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Instructions: You should identify the docket number for the special permit request you are commenting on at the beginning of your comments. If you submit your comments by mail, please submit two (2) copies. To receive confirmation that PHMSA has received your comments, please include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Internet users may submit comments at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Note: There is a privacy statement published on <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments, including any personal information provided, are posted without changes or edits to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Confidential Business Information

Confidential Business Information (CBI) is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 United States Code 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this notice contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this notice, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Pursuant to 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 190.343, you may ask PHMSA to give confidential treatment to information you give to the agency by taking the following steps: (1) mark each page of the original document submission containing CBI as “Confidential”; (2) send PHMSA, along with the original document, a second copy of the original document with the CBI deleted; and (3) explain why the information you are submitting is CBI. Unless you are notified otherwise, PHMSA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public

docket of this notice. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Lee Cooper, DOT, PHMSA-PHP-80, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. Any commentary PHMSA receives that is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this matter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

General: Mr. Lee Cooper by telephone at 202-913-3171, or by e-mail at *lee.cooper@dot.gov*.

Technical: Mr. Zaid Obeidi by telephone at 202-768-4354, or by e-mail at *zaid.obeidi@dot.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

PHMSA received a special permit request from PNGTS, a subsidiary of TC Energy, on March 27, 2024, seeking the addition of a new special permit segment and, on April 16, 2024, seeking a special permit segment extension to be incorporated into special permit PHMSA-2006-24058. Both the new segment and extension request are a part of the active permit's special permit inspection area (SPIA). Special permit PHMSA-2006-24058 allows PNGTS to deviate from the Federal pipeline safety regulations in 49 CFR §§ 192.611(a), (d), and 192.619(a), where a gas transmission pipeline segment has undergone a change from a Class 1 to a Class 3 location.

Special permit PHMSA-2006-24058 is active and was granted on May 22, 2023¹ and is effective until May 22, 2033 for four (4) special permit segments, which include 9,905 feet (approximately 1.876 miles) of the PNGTS natural gas transmission pipeline system located in the states of Maine and New Hampshire. The new special permit segment is requested for 2,625 feet (approximately 0.497 miles). The special permit segment extension is requested for an additional 4,678 feet (approximately 0.886 miles).

¹ Special Permit PHMSA-2006-24058 was originally issued on December 17, 2007 and renewed on May 22, 2023.

If granted, the special permit segments would total 17,208 feet (approximately 3.259 miles).

The active special permit segment, requested new special permit segment, and requested extension, are as follows:

SPS Number	Status	County, State	Outside Diameter (inches)	Line Name	Length (feet)	Year Installed	Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (pounds per square inch gauge)
2	Active Segment	Cumberland, ME	24	PNGTS Mainline	4,766	1998	1,440
	Extension	Cumberland, ME	24	PNGTS Mainline	4,678	1998	1,400
5	New Segment	Cumberland, ME	24	PNGTS Mainline	2,625	1999	1,440

Upon receipt of this request, an Environmental Protection Specialist from PHMSA’s Environmental Analysis and Compliance Division reviewed the Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) and its findings. In consideration of this, PHMSA finds that the expansion of the proposed special permit would not result in significant impacts to the human environment. Furthermore, the existing FEA and Finding of No Significant Impact remain adequate, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). No further environmental assessment is required for this proposal.

PNGTS’s new special permit segment and extension request, active special permit with conditions, and FEA are available for review and public comment in Docket No. PHMSA-2006-24058. PHMSA invites interested persons to review and submit comments in the docket on both the special permit segment extension request and the new special permit segment request. Please submit comments on any potential safety, environmental, and other relevant considerations implicated by the special permit request. Comments may include relevant data.

Before issuing a decision on the special permit request, PHMSA will evaluate all comments received on or before the comments closing date. PHMSA will consider each relevant comment it receives in making its decision to grant or deny this special permit request.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on June 24, 2025 under authority delegated in 49 CFR § 1.97.

Linda Daugherty,

Acting Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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