

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Pipeline Safety

Notice of Intent to Amend Waiver (Special Permit): CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation – Gas Transmission Pipeline Integrity Management Waiver Amendment

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MNOPS), pursuant to MN Stat. 299F.57, Subd. 5, granted a waiver to CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation (CNP) in 2014, concerning the frequency of pipeline integrity reassessments conducted by CNP on certain natural gas transmission pipeline facilities jurisdictional to 49 CFR Part 192. MNOPS intends to amend the waiver (special permit) to CNP. If issued, the amendment extends the waiver by one year and includes some additional technical changes. The one-year extension is related to the replacement of the Lyndale Line (on Penn Avenue) from 98th Street to I-494. Per the existing waiver, the Lyndale Line replacement is scheduled for 2019 and all line replacements are to be completed no later than 2020. The waiver extension would allow the replacement of the Lyndale Line to be completed as late as Dec. 31, 2021, thereby extending the waiver by one year.

Summary

Hennepin County proposes to undertake a road construction project on Penn Avenue in Bloomington, MN in 2021. Hennepin County has requested that CNP align its pipeline activities with the Penn Avenue Road construction project occurring in 2021. CNP has a written understanding with Hennepin County that should the Penn Avenue construction project be delayed, the pipeline replacement will still occur in 2021.

MNOPS believes that the proposed schedule change will be in the best interests of the public and Hennepin County in terms of safety, efficiency and accessibility to Penn Avenue. Removing and installing the pipeline while Penn Avenue is under reconstruction allows for an efficient use of resources. If the pipeline and road projects are not run concurrently, there is a potential for pipeline damage during road construction and further pipeline relocation due to previously unseen underground structures all of which may impact gas delivery reliability. The public would also be inconvenienced by a shutdown of Penn Avenue for two out of three years instead of one year.

In order to amend the waiver, MNOPS is requiring two additional supplemental preventative and mitigative measures. After Jan. 01, 2021, transmission line HCA segments on the beltline must be leakage surveyed every week, not to exceed 10 days. The abnormal operation requirements of 192.605(c)(1-4) will apply to scope of the beltline, effective the issuance date of the amended waiver. A final technical modification is being made to substitute Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) Survey in place of Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) for evaluating surface profile changes.

Details and documentation regarding the Waiver Extension application are available online at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ops/>

Dates

Written comments will be accepted at the below address until noon on Saturday, July 14, 2018.

Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 147
St. Paul, MN 55101-5147
Phone: 651-201-7230
Fax: 651-296-9641
email: dps.mnops.response@state.mn.us

A public meeting/hearing is scheduled at the address below from 3- 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 27, 2018.

State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Room 300 South
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dated this 2nd day of July, 2018

Ramona L. Dohman, Commissioner

Minnesota Department of Public Safety