

TBD, 2018

Mr. Alan K. Mayberry  
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Second Floor, East Building  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

# Draft

Dear Mr. Mayberry:

On June 13, 2017, CenterPoint Energy (CPE) applied for an extension to the waiver CPE received in September 2014 to forego reassessment requirements and allow for the accelerated replacement of the Minnesota Beltline Pipeline (see the attached waiver/special permit). The waiver extension was requested so that CPE's pipe replacement of the Lyndale Line located in Penn Avenue could align with Hennepin County's road project of Penn Avenue in 2021.

Under the terms of 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.

### **Notice and Hearing**

After providing notice to CPE, the Stdirector of the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MNOPS) held an informal hearing on **July 27, 2018**, to consider amending CPE's waiver of 49 CFR 192.939, that was previously adopted under Minnesota Statute 299F.S7 Subdivision 1a.

### **Terms and Conditions of the Special Permit**

The existing terms of the waiver will continue, with several modifications included in the amendment. The duration of the waiver will be extended by one year. MNOPS is requiring three additional supplemental preventative and mitigative measures. After Jan. 1, 2021, transmission line HCA segments on the beltline must be leakage surveyed every week, not to exceed 10 days, an increase from the existing leakage survey of every two weeks not to exceed 18 days. The abnormal operation requirements of 192.605(c)(1-4) will apply to the scope of the amended waiver, 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.

To ensure that the waiver is consistent with pipeline safety, CPE shall implement the updated preventative and mitigative (P&M) measures noted in the amended waiver. CPE will be required to amend its procedures to reflect the addition of the P&M measures. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the waiver may result in immediate termination of the waiver and subject CPE to enforcement. Additional safety requirements may be imposed if the commissioner determines that alternate safety measures are necessary to ensure the safe operation of CPE's pipeline in the waiver area.

### **Reasons for Waiver Extension**

Hennepin County proposes to undertake a road construction project on Penn Avenue (from 98<sup>th</sup>

Street to I-494) in Bloomington, MN in 2021. Hennepin County has requested that CPE align its pipeline activities with the Penn Avenue road construction project occurring in 2021. CPE has a written understanding with Hennepin County that should the Penn Avenue construction project be delayed, the pipeline replacement will still occur in 2021. The above waiver extension is being granted because 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.

**Waiver Amendment Granted by Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety**

After considering CPE's waiver extension request and comments from MN State Pipeline Safety Engineers, consistent with his authority under 49 U.S.C. 60118(d) and MS 299.57 Subdivision 5, the Director, MN OPS granted CenterPoint Energy's requested waiver amendment, consistent with authority under 49 U.S.C. 60118(d). Please notify MN OPS, in writing, of any objection to this waiver extension within 60 days of receipt of this letter. Otherwise, the waiver amendment granted to CPE by the MN OPS will become effective.

If you have any further questions concerning this action, please contact Jonathan Wolfgram, chief engineer, at 651-201-7234.

Sincerely

Mona Dohman  
Commissioner

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