



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

**MAY 20 2015**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Mr. Ronald C. Kraemer  
President  
Empire Pipeline, Inc.  
6363 Main Street  
Williamsville, New York 14221-5887

**Ref: PHMSA-2008-0213 Special Permit Renewal May 20, 2015 to May 20, 2020**

Dear Mr. Kraemer:

By letter dated August 12, 2014, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), notified Empire Pipeline, Inc. (Empire), operator of the Empire State Pipeline that Special Permit PHMSA-2008-0213 would expire on May 20, 2015, unless renewed. By letter dated November 20, 2014, Empire applied for a renewal of the special permit and requested an 890 foot extension of special permit segment five (5). On February 4, 2015, Empire provided operational documentation to justify the special permit renewal and submitted additional integrity information concerning the 890 foot extension request in special permit segment five (5).

On February 4, 2015, PHMSA published a Federal Register notice concerning this special permit renewal (80 FR 61747). No public comments were received. The special permit renewal request letter and all other pertinent documents are available for review in Docket No. PHMSA-2008-0213, in the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) located at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov).

This special permit renewal waives compliance with 49 CFR § 192.611 for five (5) natural gas transmission segments of the 24-inch Empire State Pipeline, where the pipeline class location has changed from Class 1 to a Class 3 location. These pipeline segments are located in Niagara, Genesee, and Monroe Counties, New York.

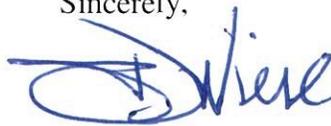
PHMSA has reviewed all operational and maintenance data submitted by Empire for the special permit renewal. PHMSA finds that Empire continues to meet the terms of the special permit and has updated the special permit where there have been material changes in the special permit segments, conditions, and limitations. PHMSA has added Condition 24(f) (Data Integration) and Condition 24(g) (Pipeline System Flow Reversals) to outline requirements for integrity data integration and possible future flow reversals in the special permit segments.

Based on the information provided by Empire, PHMSA has determined that renewal of the special permit and extension of special permit segment five (5) would not be inconsistent with pipeline safety.

**Accordingly, by this Order (enclosed), and described in the special permit renewal, PHMSA grants to Empire Pipeline, Inc., a special permit renewal (PHMSA-2008-0213), to operate from May 20, 2015, through May 20, 2020, for the Empire State Pipeline system described in the special permit where Class 1 to Class 3 location changes have occurred. This special permit renewal Order waives compliance with certain Federal regulations in 49 CFR § 192.611 for five (5) segments of the 24-inch Empire State Pipeline located in Niagara, Genesee, and Monroe Counties, New York.**

My staff would be pleased to discuss this special permit or any other regulatory matter with you. Mr. John Gale, Director, Division of Standards and Rulemaking, may be contacted at 202-366-0434 on regulatory matters. Mr. Ken Lee, Director, Division of Engineering and Research, may be contacted at 202-366-2694, for technical matters and Mr. Byron Coy, Director, OPS, Eastern Region, may be contacted at 609-989-2180, for operational matters specific to the renewal and ongoing operations of this special permit.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Wiese  
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety

Enclosure: Special Permit Renewal Order (PHMSA-2008-0213)