

PI-76-0109

August 30, 1976

Mr. R. H. Greene  
Resident Engineer and  
Superintendent of Physical Plant  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

Dear Mr. Greene:

This refers to your letter of July 20, 1976, asking whether the natural gas system operated by Stephen F. Austin State University is subject to the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 and the regulations issued thereunder, contained in 49 CFR Part 192.

Your letter indicates that the University purchases gas at 10 master meter locations and uses it for hot water and heating purposes, but also distributes the gas to students for cooking purposes.

We consider any person to be subject to the Act and the regulations who is purchasing gas and selling and delivering it by pipeline to others for their consumption. From the information you have provided, it appears that the University is selling gas to students through the rental being charged for their use of the student housing. Therefore, the University's system would be subject to the Act and the regulations.

Sincerely,

Cesar DeLeon  
Acting Director  
Office of Pipeline  
Safety Operations

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

July 20, 1976

Mr. Joseph C. Caldwell, Director  
Office of Pipeline Safety  
Department of Transportation  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

I have read the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-481) and need your assistance to determine whether the University is considered to be a gas system operator.

Stephen F. Austin State University is a tax supported state institution. Natural gas is supplied to our campus at ten (10) master meter locations. The University then distributes the gas to approximately 70 campus buildings through the University owned gas distribution system. The gas is used to fire boilers to provide hot water for heating and domestic purposes and by students living in married student housing for cooking.

It is our intention to provide safe facilities and to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws. However, due to the shortage of funds available to us, we have to consider all needs and exercise prudent judgement as to how the funds are to be used. If we are covered by the Act then we will take immediate steps to comply. If not, we propose to continue our present study with a consulting firm specializing in corrosion control to determine whether we need to use special protective devices on our gas system.

We will appreciate your response to this letter as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

R.H. Greene  
Resident Engineer and  
Superintendent of Physical Plant