

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

**Authority:** 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1).

Issued on: February 26, 2008.

**Jeffrey W. Kolb,**

*Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Albany, New York.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

**Office of Hazardous Materials Safety; Notice of Delays in Processing of Special Permits Applications**

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

**ACTION:** List of applications delayed more than 180 days.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5117( c), PHMSA is publishing the following list of special permit applications that have been in process for 180 days or more. The reason(s) for delay and the expected completion date for action on each application is provided in association with each identified application.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Delmer F. Billings, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Special Permits and Approvals, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building, PHH-30, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4535.

**Key to "Reason for Delay"**

1. Awaiting additional information from applicant.
2. Extensive public comment under review.

3. Application is technically complex and is of significant impact or precedent-setting and requires extensive analysis.

4. Staff review delayed by other priority issues or volume of special permit applications.

**Meaning of Application Number Suffixes**

N—New application.

M—Modification request.

PM—Party to application with modification request.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 27, 2008.

**Delmer F. Billings,**

*Director, Office of Hazardous Materials, Special Permits and Approvals.*

Application No.	Applicant	Reason for delay of completion	Estimated date
<b>Modification to Special Permits</b>			
11579-M .....	Austin Powder Company, Cleveland, OR .....	3, 4	03-31-2008
10964-M .....	Kidde Aerospace & Defense, Wilson, NC .....	4	03-31-2008
13173-M .....	Dynetek Industries Ltd., Calgary Alberta, Canada .....	1	03-31-2008
<b>New Special Permit Applications</b>			
14385-N .....	Kansas City Southern Railway Company, Kansas City, MO .....	4	03-31-2008
14566-N .....	Nantong CIMCTank Equipment Co. Ltd., Nantong City .....	3	03-31-2008
14576-N .....	Structural Composites Industries(SCI), Pomona, CA .....	1	03-31-2008
14572-N .....	WEW Westerwaelder Eisenwerk, Weitefeld Germany .....	3	03-31-2008
14549-N .....	Greif, Inc., Delaware, OR .....	3,4	03-31-2008
14402-N .....	Lincoln Composites, Lincoln, NE .....	3,4	03-31-2008

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

[Docket No. PHMSA-RSPA-2004-19856]

**Pipeline Safety: Issues Related to Mechanical Couplings Used in Natural Gas Distribution Systems**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of advisory bulletin.

**SUMMARY:** Recent events concerning failures of mechanical couplings and

related appurtenances have raised concerns about safety in natural gas distribution systems. This notice updates information provided in Advisory Bulletin ADB-86-02 and advises owners and operators of gas pipelines to consider the potential failure modes for mechanical couplings used for joining and pressure sealing two pipes together. Failures can occur when there is inadequate restraint for the potential stresses on the two pipes, when the couplings are incorrectly installed or supported, or when the coupling components such as elastomers degrade over time. In addition, inadequate leak surveys which fail to identify leaks requiring immediate repair can lead to more serious incidents. This notice urges operators to review their procedures for using mechanical couplings and ensure

coupling design, installation procedures, leak survey procedures, and personnel qualifications meet Federal requirements. Operators should work with Federal and State pipeline safety representatives, manufacturers, and industry partners to determine how best to resolve potential issues in their respective state or region. Documented repair or replacement programs may prove beneficial to all stakeholders involved.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Sanders at (405) 954-7214, or by e-mail at [richard.sanders@dot.gov](mailto:richard.sanders@dot.gov); or Max Kieba at (202) 493-0595, or by e-mail at [max.kieba@dot.gov](mailto:max.kieba@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**