



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

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December 5, 1996

John Remmers  
Hoffman Construction Company  
Tri-met #96079  
PO Box 1300  
Portland OR 97207

Dear Mr. Remmers:

This is in response to your October 14, 1996 letter in which you ask for a rule interpretation on the use of propane equipment in the Tri-met tunnel 501 project. You indicate that Frontier/Traylor has determined that current environmental controls are effective and the remaining construction activity will not cause any environmental hazards nor structural failures.

Where the tunnel shaft has been drilled, the concrete lining is in place, the work has entered the final stages and the environmental controls are in place, then the check-in and self-rescue procedures may be suspended.

The use of propane equipment is prohibited in any underground or tunnel work as stipulated in 1910.800(m)(5)(ii). This section prohibits flammable gases from being used in tunnels except for welding. Your trucks and generators need to be of the diesel power type as permitted under 1910.800(k)(10)(I).

Our search of both federal and state interpretations found no letters that would alter the requirements of 1926.800(m)(5)(ii).

If we can be of further assistance to you please contact Jerry Hoard at 378-3272 or through E-mail at: [tech.web@state.or.us](mailto:tech.web@state.or.us).

Please visit our web site on the Internet for information about OR-OSHA. We are located at: <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/index.html>.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager  
Standards & Technical Resources Section  
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division