

For identifying third party damage, the operator's confirmatory direct assessment plan would include identification of pipeline segments where construction or other groundbreaking activity was reported near the pipeline right-of-way since the previous assessment.

(i) What Actions Must Be Taken To Address Integrity Issues? Proposed § 192.763(i)

The proposed rule requires that an operator must take prompt action to address all anomalous conditions that the operator discovers through the integrity assessment or information analysis. In addressing all conditions, an operator must evaluate all anomalous conditions and remediate those that could reduce a pipeline's integrity. An operator must be able to demonstrate that the remediation of the condition will ensure that the condition is unlikely to pose a threat to the long-term integrity of the pipeline. If an operator is unable to respond within the time limits for certain conditions specified below, operating pressure of the pipeline must be temporary reduced. An operator must determine the temporary reduction in operating pressure for dents and gouges using section 851.42 of ASME/ANSI B31.8; and for corrosion using ASME/ANSI B31G, RSTRENG, or equivalent, or by reducing the operating pressure to a level not exceeding 80% of the level at the time the integrity assessment results were received. A reduction in operating pressure cannot exceed 365 days without an operator taking further remedial action on anomalies that could reduce a pipeline's integrity. An operator must comply with Section 7 of ASME/ANSI B31.8S when defining the time frame for making a repair. Section 7 of this standard defines conditions for which the required response is "immediate" or can be "scheduled," and other conditions for which the indications can be "monitored." "Immediate response," means that upon discovery of the condition the operator will immediately either shut the line down or reduce pressure to 80% of its previous level or less, if necessary to achieve a safe condition, and maintain that lower pressure until the defect is mitigated. Under no circumstances shall this temporary pressure reduction be extended beyond 365 days after the condition is discovered. Immediate response conditions are defined for threats including corrosion, stress corrosion cracking and third party damage. In addition, conditions for which the ratio of the predicted failure pressure to the MAOP is determined to

be less than or equal to 1.1, require immediate response. "Scheduled response," means that the indications must be reviewed within six months of discovery and response plans developed consistent with the severity of the defect. Figure 7-1 of ASME/ANSI B31.8S presents criteria for remediation time as a function of the stress level of the pipe and the severity of the defect (*i.e.*, the ratio of the predicted failure pressure to the MAOP). "Monitored defects," are those for which the response time for mitigation is greater than the reassessment interval, and, therefore, the indications will be reexamined as part of the reassessment process.

The proposed rule also defines "discovery of condition." Discovery of a condition occurs when an operator has adequate information about the condition to determine that the condition presents a potential threat to the integrity of the pipeline. An operator must promptly, but no later than 180 days after an integrity assessment, obtain sufficient information about a condition to make that determination. If the operator cannot make the necessary determination within the 180 day period, then it must notify RSPA/OPS of the reasons for the delay and the expected time for completing the assessment.

Except for special requirements for scheduling remediation of certain conditions specified in paragraph (h)(4) of the proposed rule, an operator is required by the proposed rule to follow a threat by threat schedule specified in the ASME/ANSI B31.8S Standard. An operator must complete remediation of a condition according to a schedule that prioritizes the conditions for evaluation and remediation. If an operator cannot meet the schedule for any condition, the operator must justify the reasons why it cannot meet the schedule and that the changed schedule will not jeopardize public safety. An operator must notify RSPA/OPS if it cannot meet the schedule and cannot provide safety through a temporary reduction in operating pressure. An operator must send the notice to the address specified in paragraph (n) of the proposed rule.

*The proposed rule also tabulates special conditions for scheduled remediation as follows:*

*Immediate repair conditions.* An operator's evaluation and remediation schedule must provide for immediate repair conditions. To maintain safety, an operator must temporarily reduce operating pressure or shut down the pipeline until the operator completes the repair of these conditions. Consistent with ASME B31.8S, Chapter

7, an operator must treat the following conditions as immediate repair conditions:

- A calculation of the remaining strength of the pipe shows a predicted failure pressure less than 1.1 times the established maximum operating pressure at the location of the anomaly. Suitable remaining strength calculation methods include, but are not limited to, ASME/ANSI B31G ("Manual for Determining the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipelines" (1991) or AGA Pipeline Research Committee Project PR-3-805 ("A Modified Criterion for Evaluating the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipe" (December 1989)). These documents are available at the addresses listed in Appendix A to Part 192.

- A dent that has any indication of metal loss, cracking or a stress riser.

- An anomaly that in the judgment of the person designated by the operator to evaluate the assessment results requires immediate action. Such an evaluation is required by all operators using direct assessment.

*180-day evaluation.* Except for conditions listed in "immediate repair" conditions of this section, an operator must complete evaluation and schedule remediation of the following within 180 days of discovery of the condition:

- Calculation of the remaining strength of the pipe shows a predicted failure pressure between 1.1 times the established maximum operating pressure at the location of the anomaly, and the ratio of the predicted failure pressure to the MAOP shown in Figure 7-1 of ASME B31.8S to be appropriate for the stress level of the pipe and the reassessment interval. For example, if the pipe is operating at 50% SMYS and the reassessment interval is ten (10) years, then the predicted failure pressure ratio for scheduling examination and remediation during that ten year period would be 1.39.

*180 day remediation.* The following conditions must be remediated within 180 days of discovery of the condition:

- A dent with a depth greater than 6% of the pipeline diameter (greater than 0.50 inches in depth for a pipeline diameter less than Nominal Pipe Size (NPS) 12).

- A dent with a depth greater than 2% of the pipeline's diameter (0.250 inches in depth for a pipeline diameter less than NPS 12) that affects pipe curvature at a girth weld or a longitudinal seam weld.

- A potential crack indication that when excavated is determined to be a crack.

- Corrosion of or along a longitudinal seam weld.