

interval, consistent with the growth rate of MIC corrosion.

OPS can only allow a waiver of a maximum reassessment interval greater than seven years in two instances—for lack of internal inspection tools or to maintain local product supply- and if OPS determines that such a waiver would not be inconsistent with pipeline safety. Because public notice and comment is required for a waiver, we are proposing an operator provide 180 days advance notification.

The proposed rule requires the operator to assess the integrity of the line pipe by one or more of the following techniques:

- Internal inspection tool or tools; for details on selecting appropriate internal inspection tools an operator must refer to ASME/ANSI B31.8S section 6.2.
- Pressure test conducted in accordance with Subpart J of Part 192.
- Direct assessment method for external corrosion threats, internal corrosion threats, and other threats must be carried out in accordance with the ASME/ANSI B31.8S standard Section 6.3 and paragraph (h) of the proposed rule.
- Other technology that the operator demonstrates can provide an equivalent understanding of the condition of the line pipe. An operator choosing this option must notify RSPA/OPS 180 days before conducting the assessment, by sending a notice to the address or to the facsimile number specified in paragraph (n) of the proposed rule.

(l) What Methods To Measure Program Effectiveness Must Be Used? Proposed § 192.763(l)

The proposed rule requires an operator to include in its integrity management program methods to measure the program's effectiveness in assessing and evaluating the integrity of each pipeline segment and in protecting the high consequence areas. The proposed rule requires that an operator use four overall performance measures specified in Section 9.4 of ASME/ANSI B31.8S and specific measures for each identified threat specified in ASME/ANSI B31.8S, Appendix SP-A.

The performance measures help an operator determine whether all integrity management program objectives were accomplished and whether pipeline integrity and safety are effectively improved through the integrity management program. Proper selection and evaluation of performance measures are an essential activity in determining integrity management program effectiveness. According to ASME/ANSI B31.8S Standard, evaluations must be performed at least annually to provide

a continuing measure of integrity management program effectiveness over time. This standard lists four overall program measurements that must be determined and documented. Those measurements are: (1) Number of miles of pipeline inspected versus program requirements; (2) number of immediate repairs completed as a result of integrity management inspection program; (3) number of scheduled repairs completed as result of the integrity management inspection program; (4) number of leaks, failures and incidents.

The proposed rule requires that an operator periodically make available for inspection the four primary performance measures enumerated above from Section 9.4 in ASME/ANSI B31.8S.

(m) What Records Must Be Kept? Proposed § 192.763(m)

The proposed rule requires that an operator maintain certain records for inspection, including its written integrity management program, and, if applicable, its plan for using direct assessment. This requirement is not different from the procedural manual an operator is required to maintain for operations, maintenance and emergencies. An operator would also be required to maintain for review during inspection, any documents that support the decisions and analyses made, and actions taken to implement and evaluate each element of the integrity management program. This would include records documenting any modifications, justifications, variances, deviations and determinations made. All records required under direct assessment must also be maintained and available for RSPA/OPS review during inspections. Again, this requirement is no different from the myriad of documents an operator now maintains to comply with the other provisions of the pipeline safety regulations.

(n) Where Does an Operator Send a Notification? Proposed § 192.763(n)

This section of the proposed rule clarifies that any required notification must be sent to the Information Resources Manager, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room 7128, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590, or to the facsimile number (202) 366-7128. Notification is required when an operator: (a) Uses alternative technology for an integrity assessment; (b) cannot meet its schedules for identification of segments and identification of ECDA regions if applicable; (c) cannot meet schedules

for evaluating and remediating anomalous conditions; (d) adopts certain changes into its program; and (f) seeks a waiver from a reassessment interval greater than seven years.

Appendix E to Part 192

We are adding a new Appendix E to Part 192. This Appendix gives guidance on determining a potential impact zone within a high consequence area and shows diagram of a potential impact zone under figure E.I.1. This Appendix describes the steps an operator needs to perform in order to determine segments covered under potential impact zones. This Appendix also provides recommendations on how to select external corrosion direct assessment (ECDA) Tools and how to identify ECDA Regions. In addition, this Appendix provides a spreadsheet under Graph E.III.1 for calculating critical angle for liquid hold-up for internal corrosion direct assessment (ICDA).

An operator is required to follow the recommendations on ECDA Tool selection and ECDA Regions, unless the operator notes in its plan the reasons why compliance with all or certain provisions is not necessary to maintain integrity of their specific pipeline system. The Appendix contains recommendations on:

- *Selection of indirect inspection tools for direct assessment:* how selection of indirect inspection tools may vary along a segment; minimum number of tools needed for all ECDA locations and items that should be considered when selecting indirect inspection tools; and conditions under which some indirect inspection tools may not be practical or reliable.
- *Identification of ECDA Regions:* how to (a) Collect appropriate risk factor data; (b) define criteria to identify ECDA regions; and (c) identify locations having similar physical characteristics, soil conditions, corrosion protection maintenance. In addition, guidance on establishing ECDA Regions is presented by illustrating an example of the ECDA regions for a hypothetical pipeline.

- *Internal Corrosion Direct Assessment:* how to calculate critical angle for liquid hold-up using a graph from GRI report GRI-02/0057. The approach helps determine if internal corrosion is likely to or unlikely to exist in a chosen length of pipe.

Regulatory Analyses and Notices

Executive Order 12866 and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

The Department of Transportation (DOT) considers this action to be a significant regulatory action under