

The Potential Impact Zone definition (§ 192.761) expands the area protected and provides the basis for prioritizing the pipeline segments for assessment and remediation. The priority an operator is to give each covered segment depends on the population density within the potential impact radius. An operator will need to perform the following—

- (1) Identify all high consequence areas;
- (2) Calculate the Potential Impact Radius (PIR) for each pipeline segment;
- (3) Determine the Threshold Radius associated with the PIR for each segment;
- (4) Identify the Potential Impact Circle for each segment;
- (5) Identify the Potential Impact Zone for each segment;
- (6) Determine the priority of each segment giving higher priority to any segment within a potential impact zone.

II. Guidance on ECDA Tool Selection and Definition of External Corrosion Direct Assessment (ECDA) Regions

This section gives guidance to help an operator implement the requirements for a direct assessment plan in § 192.763 (h). An operator that chooses to use direct assessment to assess the threat of external corrosion on the operator's covered pipeline segments may refer to this guidance for selecting inspection tools to carry out the indirect inspection requirements and for defining external corrosion regions.

A. Selection of Indirect Inspection Tools

The rule (§ 192.763(h)(3)(iii)), requires an operator to select a minimum of two indirect inspection tools for all ECDA locations along the pipeline segment.

- The pipeline operator must select indirect inspection tools based on their ability to reliably detect corrosion activity under the specific pipeline conditions to be encountered.
- The “indirect inspection tool selection” column in Table E.II.1 includes items that should be considered when selecting indirect inspection tools.
- Table E.II.2 provides guidance on selecting indirect inspection tools and specifically addresses conditions under which some indirect inspection tools may not be practical or reliable.
- The pipeline operator does not have to use the same indirect inspection tools at all locations along the pipeline segment. Figure E.II.1 demonstrates how the selection of indirect inspection tools may vary along a segment.

B. Identification of ECDA Regions

The rule (§ 192.763(h)(3)(ii)) requires an operator to analyze data it has collected to identify ECDA regions.

- The definition of ECDA regions will evolve through the *Indirect Inspection Step* and the *Direct Examination Step*. An operator is expected to establish a preliminary definition and fine tune it later in the ECDA process.

- The pipeline operator should define criteria for identifying ECDA regions.

- An ECDA region should include locations that have similar physical characteristics, corrosion histories, expected future corrosion conditions, and use the same indirect inspection tools.

- The pipeline operator should consider physical characteristics, soil conditions, and corrosion protection mechanisms that the pipeline operator considers significant in affecting external corrosion when defining criteria for identifying ECDA regions. Table E.1 may be used as guidance in establishing ECDA regions.

- A single ECDA region does not need to be contiguous. That is, an ECDA region may be broken along the pipeline, for example, if similar conditions are encountered on either side of a river crossing.

- An operator should include the entire pipeline segment in an ECDA region.

- Figure E.II.2 gives an example definition of ECDA regions for a given pipeline.

- A pipeline operator should define five distinct areas based on soil characteristics and previous history.

- Based on the choice of indirect inspection tools, the soil characteristics, and the previous history, the pipeline operator should define seven ECDA regions.

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P