



Regulatory Next Steps in Addressing Pipeline Seam Weld Challenges





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**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**



Regulatory Next Steps in Addressing Pipeline Seam Weld Challenges

- Introduction and History
- Regulatory Mandate and Recommendations
- Seam Study – Phase 1
- Seam Study – Phase 2
- Integrity Verification Process – Overview
- Regulatory Action – Status Update



Introduction and History

- **U.S. PHMSA - Advisory Bulletins on ERW Seam Failures**
 - **Alert Notice – ALN-88-01 and ALN-89-01**
 - Advised operators and the public on factors contributing to operational failures of pipelines constructed prior to 1970 with Electric Resistance Weld (ERW) seams
- **Liquid Propane Pipeline Rupture – Carmichael, MS**
 - November 1, 2007
 - Fracture along LF-ERW seam
 - 2 fatalities and 7 injuries

**Incident #1 -
Carmichael, MS**





Introduction and History

- **Natural Gas Transmission Rupture – San Bruno, CA**
 - September 9, 2010
 - Failure of 30-inch diameter weld seams
 - Fracture along partial welded seam – 6 short pipe joints
 - 5 pups fabricated in 1956, did not meet pipe quality standards
 - 8 fatalities, many injured, 38 homes destroyed, 70 homes damaged

Incident #2 San Bruno, CA



Photograph of the 28-foot-long ruptured section of pipeline



U.S. Regulatory Mandate and Recommendations: *Pipeline Safety Act of 2011*

- **Pipeline Safety Act of 2011 - Section 23**
- **Verification of Records and Reporting**
 - Identify **pipe segments with no records to verify Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP)** for all Gas Transmission steel pipe [Class 3, 4 and all High Consequence Areas (HCAs)]
- **Determination of MAOP**
 - Reconfirm MAOP for pipeline segments with insufficient records
- **Testing Regulations**
 - Requires conducting tests to **confirm material strength of previously untested gas transmission steel pipelines** in HCAs and operating pressure of +30% Specified Minimum Yield Strength (SMYS) that were not previously pressure tested



U. S. Regulatory Mandate and Recommendations: *NTSB Recommendations*

- ***NTSB P-09-01 “Comprehensive Study”*** – to identify actions that can be implemented to eliminate catastrophic longitudinal seam failures in ERW pipe
- ***NTSB P-09-02 “Implement Actions from Study Findings”***
- ***NTSB P-11-14 “Delete Grandfather Clause”*** – recommends all grandfathered pipe be pressured tested, including a “spike” test
- ***NTSB P-11-15 “Seam Stability”*** – recommends pressure test to 1.25 x MAOP before treating latent manufacturing and construction defects as “stable”
- ***NTSB P-11-17 “Piggable Lines”*** – Configure all lines to accommodate smart pigs, with priority given to older lines



U. S. Regulatory Mandate and Recommendations

- **How much pipeline mileage will these mandates and recommendations effect?**



Piggability: ILI Able vs Not Able

Part R	Total Miles	ILI Able	ILI Not Able
Class 1 - HCA	1,658	1,380	278
- non-HCA	234,851	146,035	88,816
Class 2 - HCA	1,409	1,152	257
- non-HCA	28,978	15,073	13,905
Class 3- HCA	15,850	10,469	5,381
- non-HCA	16,751	6,924	9,827
Class 4 - HCA	752	366	386
- non-HCA	209	112	97
TOTAL	300,458	181,511	118,947

Gas Transmission 2012 Annual Report data as of 7-1-2013



Summary of Gas Transmission (GT) Pipe

Location	Total GT Miles	% in HCA	GT HCA Miles	Non-HCA Miles
Class 1	237,756	0.7	1,660	236,096
Class 2	30,210	4.7	1,412	28,798
Class 3	32,613	48.6	15,854	16,759
Class 4	962	78.2	752	209
Total	301,540		19,678	281,862

Data as of 7-1-2013 from Part Q of Operator Annual Reports

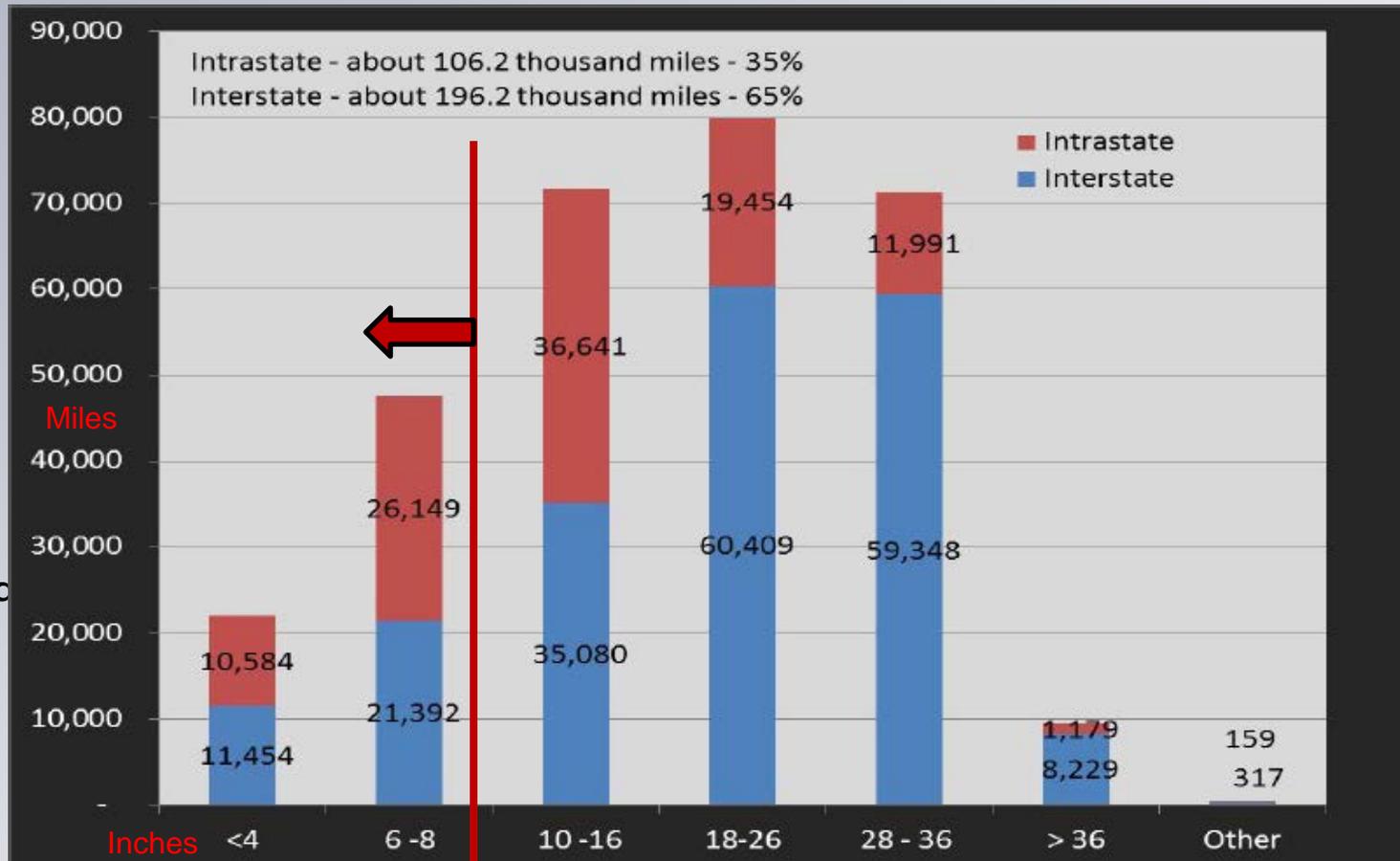


Aging Infrastructure: % by Decade in USA

Decade	Hazardous Liquid		Gas Transmission		Gas Distribution		
	Liquid		Transmission		Main	Service	
Unknown & <1920	2%	56%	---	58%			
1920s	2%		2%			---	---
1930s	3%		4%		6%	3%	
1940s	8%	56%	7%	58%	2%	2%	
1950s	20%		22%		10%	8%	40%
1960s	21%		23%		17%	13%	
1970s	16%	44%	11%	42%	12%	14%	
1980s	9%		10%		14%	17%	
1990s	11%		11%		21%	22%	60%
2000s	8%		10%		53%	21%	



Nominal Pipe Size





Pressure Test Range

Pressure Test Range	Total Miles	% Total
PT < 1.1 MAOP or no PT	93,817	31%
1.25 MAOP > PT ≥ 1.1 MAOP	19,131	6%
PT ≥ 1.25 MAOP	187,628	62%

Gas Transmission 2012 Operator Annual Report data as-of 7-1-2013



Seam Study

Comprehensive Study to Understand Longitudinal ERW Seam Failures

- **Research Contractor: Phase 1**
 - Battelle
- **Subcontractors: Phase 1**
 - Det Norske Veritas (DNV) & Kiefner and Associates (KAI)
- **Principle Investigators: Phase 1**
 - Bruce Young – Battelle
 - Brian Leis & Bruce Nestleroth, in conjunction with
 - John Kiefner (KAI) & John Beavers (DNV)
- **Phase 1 Completed – Jan. 2014; Phase 2 underway**



Phase 1 – Findings

- **ILI Detection & Sizing:**
 - ILI results show inconsistencies with digs & hydro test results
 - May be due to either ILI tool findings or interpretation
 - ILI tools are useful for finding & eliminating some seam defects
- **In-the-Ditch Assessment Methods**
 - No consistent standard practice
 - Can be inspector dependent
- **In-the-Ditch / ILI Improvements required for:**
 - More specific identification of anomaly type
 - Reduction of false calls
 - Improved sizing of defect depth and length for effective assessment and evaluation results



Phase 1 – Findings

- **Failure Pressure Models**
 - Should use a more representative Charpy impact toughness position relative to the bond line
 - Toughness values when unknown, need to be conservative
- **Predictive Model for Assessing Failure Stress Levels**
 - Must be based upon whether the failure is brittle or ductile, if unknown evaluate for both
 - Must use lower-bound failure stress levels based upon defect type (cold weld, hook cracks, stress corrosion cracking, etc.)



Phase 1 – Findings

- **Hydrostatic test pressures**
 - Need to be higher to be effective based upon a review of over 600 seam failures
 - Time to failure increases at an exponential rate to increased test pressure
 - Higher test pressures should mean longer interval before a retest



Phase 2 – Overview

- 1. Improve hydrotesting protocols for ERW/FW Seams**
- 2. Enhance Defect Detection and Sizing via Inspection**
- 3. Defect Characterization: Types, Sizes, & Shapes**
- 4. Develop & Refine Predictive Models & Quantify Growth Mechanisms**
- 5. Develop Management Tools**
- 6. Public Meeting/Forum**

Completed reports for Phase 1 available at:

<https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/matrix/PrjHome.rdm?prj=390>



Integrity Verification Process (IVP)

Overview of Basic Principles



Principle #1

Apply to Higher Risk Locations

- **High Consequence Areas (HCAs)**
- **Moderate Consequence Area (MCA):**
 - Onshore area within a potential impact circle
 - Containing one or more buildings intended for human occupancy
 - Occupied site or designated Federal interstate, expressway, or 4-lane highway right-of-way
 - Does not meet definition of high consequence area, as defined in § 192.903.
- **PHMSA Estimates**
 - ~ 76,000 miles HCA/MCA (out of ~ 301,000 miles)



Principle #2

Screen for Categories of Concern

- **Apply process to pipeline segments with:**
 - Grandfathered Pipe
 - Lack of Records to Substantiate MAOP
 - Lack of Adequate Pressure Test
 - Operating pressures over 72% SMYS (pre-Code)
 - History of Failures Attributable to Manufacturing & Construction Defects



Principle #3

Know & Document Pipe Material

- **Inadequate Validated, Non-traceable Material Documentation, Establish Material Properties by an approved process:**
 - Cut out and Test Pipe Samples (Code approved process)
 - *In Situ* Non-Destructive Testing (if validated and if Code approved)
 - Field verification of code stamp for components such as valves, flanges, and fabrications
 - Other verifications



Principle #4

Assessments to Establish MAOP

- Allow Operator to Select Best Option to Establish MAOP
- **Candidate IVP Options for Establishing MAOP**
 - Subpart J Pressure Test with Spike Test
 - Derate Operating Pressure
 - Engineering Critical Assessment
 - Replace Pipe Segment
 - Alternative Technology or Technical Options
 - **Other options PHMSA should consider?**



Material Documentation Plan

- **Procedures**

- Tests for:

- Yield strength, ultimate tensile strength, seam type, coating type and chemistry

- Destructive Tests

- Pipe removed from replacements and relocations

- Destructive and/or Non-Destructive Tests

- Direct examinations, repairs, remediation & maintenance

- Tests used only to verify and document material grade



MAOP Determination

- **Applicable Locations**

- Located in HCA, MCA, and meets any of the following:

- Experienced reportable in-service incident since last pressure test due...
 - Legacy pipe or constructed with legacy construction techniques and has not had a Pressure Test (PT) of the greater of
 - 1.25 times MAOP or applicable Class location PT requirement
 - No PT records
 - MAOP established per Grandfather Clause



MAOP Determination

- **Pressure Test**
 - 1.25 or class location test factor times MAOP
 - **Spike test segments** w/ reportable in-service incident due to legacy pipe/construction and cracking
 - Estimate remaining life, segments w/crack defects
- **Pressure Reduction**
 - Reduce pressure by MAOP divided by class location test factor
 - Estimate remaining life, segments w/crack defects
- **Pipe Replacement**
 - Install new pipe that meets Code requirements



MAOP Determination

- **Engineering Critical Assessment (ECA)**
 - ECA analysis – for MAOP
 - Segment specific technical and material documentation issues
 - Analyze crack, metal loss, and interacting defects remaining in pipe, or could remain in the pipe, to determine MAOP
 - MAOP established
- **Alternative Technology**
 - Alternative technical evaluation process that provides a sound engineering basis for establishing MAOP



Regulatory Action – Status Update

- **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)**
 - Regulation drafted
 - Being routed for approval to notice to Public
- **Applicable to Gas Transmission Pipelines**
 - 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 192



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Stay Tuned

