

MODIFICATIONS TO EXEMPTIONS

Application No.	Applicant	Reason for delay	Estimated date of completion
3415-M	U.S. Department of Defense (MTMC), Falls Church, VA	4	8/31/1999
4354-M	PPG Industries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA	1	8/31/1999
6611-M	Gardner Cryogenics, Lehigh Valley, PA	4	8/31/1999
6765-M	Gardner Cryogenics Lehigh Valley, PA	4	8/31/1999
9266-M	ERMEWA, Inc., Houston, TX	4	8/31/1999
9419-M	FIBA Technologies, Inc., Westboro, MA	4	8/31/1999
10677-M	Suunto USA, Carlsbad, CA	4	8/31/1999
10921-M	The Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH	4	8/31/1999
10929-M	Consolidated Rail Corporation, Philadelphia, PA	4	8/31/1999
10977-M	Federal Industries Corporation Plymouth, MN	4	8/31/1999
11173-M	Olin Corporation, Norwalk, CT	4	8/31/1999
11327-M	Phoenix Services Limited Partnership, Pasadena, MD	4	8/31/1999
11613-M	Solutia, Inc., St. Louis, MO	1	9/30/1999
11769-M	HCI USA Distribution Co., Inc., Irvine, CA	4	7/30/1999
11173-M	Olin Corporation, Norwalk, CT	4	8/31/1999
11327-M	Phoenix Services Limited Partnership, Pasadena, MD	4	8/31/1999
11613-M	Solutia, Inc., St. Louis, MO	1	9/30/1999
11769-M	HCI USA Distribution Co., Inc., Irvine, CA	4	7/30/1999
11856-M	Olin Corp/Motorola Corp	1	9/30/1999
12013-M	HCI USA Distribution Companies Incorporated, Irvine, CA	4	7/31/1999

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Quarterly Performance Review Meeting on the Contract "Detection of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines" (Contract DTRS-56-96-C-0010)

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: RSPA invites the pipeline industry, in-line inspection ("smart pig") vendors, and the general public to the last quarterly performance review meeting of progress on the contract "Detection of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines." The meeting is open to anyone, and no registration is required. This contract is being performed by Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle), along with the Southwest Research Institute, and Iowa State University. The contract is a research and development contract to develop electromagnetic in-line inspection technologies to detect and characterize mechanical damage and stress corrosion cracking. The meeting will cover a review of the overall project plan, the status of the contract tasks, progress made during the past quarter, and projected activity for the remainder of the contract.

DATES: The last quarterly performance review meeting will be held on Monday, August 30, 1999 beginning at 1 p.m. and ending around 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The quarterly review meeting will be held at The Antlers Adam's Mark Hotel, 4 South Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. The hotel's telephone number is (719) 473-5600.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lloyd W. Ulrich, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Office of Pipeline Safety, telephone: (202) 366-4556, FAX: (202) 366-4566, e-mail: lloyd.ulrich@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

RSPA is conducting quarterly meetings on the status of its contract "Detection of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines" (Contract DTRS-56-96-C-0010) because in-line inspection research is of immediate interest to the pipeline industry and in-line inspection vendors. The research contract with Battelle is a cooperative effort between the Gas Research Institute (GRI) and DOT, with GRI providing technical guidance. The meetings allow disclosure of the results to interested parties and provide an opportunity for interested parties to ask Battelle questions concerning the research. Attendance at this meeting is open to all and does not require advanced registration nor advanced notification to RSPA.

We specifically want that segment of the pipeline industry involved with in-line inspection to be aware of the status of this contract. To assure that a cross section of industry is well represented at these meetings, we have invited the major domestic in-line inspection company (Tuboscope Vetco Pipeline

Services) and the following pipeline industry trade associations: American Petroleum Institute, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, and the American Gas Association. Each has named an engineering/technical representative and, along with the GRI representative providing technical guidance, form the Industry Review Team (IRT) for the contract.

The original objective was to open each quarterly performance review meeting to the public. The first quarterly meeting was conducted on October 22, 1996, in Washington, DC. However, preparing for a formal briefing each quarter takes a considerable amount of time and resources on Battelle's part that could be better used to conduct the research. Therefore, Battelle requested and RSPA concurred that future public meetings would be conducted semi-annually. Conducting public meetings semi-annually will provide all interested parties with sufficient update of progress in the research. Only the IRT and RSPA staff involved with the contract will be invited to the quarterly performance review meetings held between the public semi-annual meetings.

Another objective is to conduct many of the semi-annual meetings at the same location and either before or after a meeting of GRI's Nondestructive Evaluation Technical Advisory Group to enable participation by pipeline technical personnel involved with nondestructive evaluation. This meeting is being held in Colorado Springs the day before a meeting of the GRI Nondestructive Technical Advisory Group. Each of the semi-annual

meetings have been announced in the **Federal Register** at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

II. The Contract

The Battelle contract is a research and development contract to evaluate and develop in-line inspection technologies for detecting mechanical damage and cracking, such as stress-corrosion cracking (SCC), in natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines. Third-party mechanical damage is one of the largest causes of pipeline failure, but existing in-line inspection tools cannot always detect or accurately characterize the severity of some types of third-party damage that can threaten pipeline integrity. Although SCC is not very common on pipelines, it usually appears in high-stressed, low-population-density areas and only when a limited set of environmental conditions are met. Several attempts have been made to develop an in-line inspection tool for SCC, but there is no commercially successful tool on the market.

Under the contract, Battelle is evaluating and advancing magnetic flux leakage (MFL) inspection technology for detecting mechanical damage and two electromagnetic technologies for detecting SCC. The focus is on MFL for mechanical damage because experience shows MFL can characterize some types of mechanical damage and can be successfully used for metal-loss corrosion under a wide variety of conditions. The focus for SCC is on electromagnetic technologies that can be used in conjunction with, or as a modification to, MFL tools. The technologies to be evaluated take advantage of the MFL magnetizer either by enhancing signals or using electrical currents that are generated by the passage of an inspection tool through a pipeline.

The contract includes three major tasks. Task 1 evaluated existing MFL signal generation and analysis methods and established a baseline from which today's tools can be evaluated and tomorrow's advances measured. Then, improvements to signal analysis methods were developed and verified through testing under realistic pipeline conditions. Finally, it built an experience base and defect sets to generalize the results from individual tools and analysis methods to the full range of practical applications.

Task 2 evaluated two inspection technologies for detecting stress corrosion cracks. The focus in Task 2 was on electromagnetic techniques that have been developed in recent years and that could be used on or as a

modification to existing MFL tools. Three subtasks evaluated velocity-induced remote-field techniques, remote-field eddy-current techniques, and external techniques for sizing stress corrosion cracks.¹

Task 3 is verifying the results from Tasks 1 and 2 by tests under realistic pipeline conditions. Task 3 is (1) extending the mechanical damage detection, signal decoupling, and sizing algorithms developed in the basic program to include the effects of pressure, (2) verifying the algorithms under pressurized conditions in GRI's 4,700 foot, 24-inch diameter Pipeline Simulation Facility (PSF) flow loop, and (3) developing techniques to measure stress and determine the severity of mechanical damage and cracks.

A drawback of present pig technology is the lack of a reliable pig performance verification procedure that is generally accepted by the pipeline industry and RSPA. The experience gained by the pipeline industry and RSPA with the use of the PSF flow loop in this project will provide a framework to develop procedures for evaluating pig performance. Defect detection reliability is critical if instrumented pigging is to be used as an in-line inspection tool in pipeline industry risk management programs.

The ultimate benefits of the project could be more efficient and cost-effective operations, maintenance programs to monitor and enhance the safety of gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines. Pipeline companies will benefit from having access to inspection technologies for detecting critical mechanical damage and stress-corrosion cracks. Inspection tool vendors will benefit by understanding where improvements are beneficial and needed. These benefits will support RSPA's long-range objective of ensuring the safety and reliability of the gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline infrastructure.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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¹The report summarizing the work conducted under tasks 1 and 2 can be found from viewing the RSPA home page, <http://ops.dot.gov>.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-99-5442; Notice 2]

Chevron Pipe Line Company; Grant of Waiver

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

Chevron Pipe Line Company (CPL) petitioned the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) for a waiver from compliance with 49 CFR 19.612(b)(3), which requires that gas pipeline facilities in the Gulf of Mexico found to be exposed on the seabed or constituting a hazard to navigation be reburied so that the top of the pipe is 36 inches below the seabed.

CPL proposed to install concrete mesh blanket units to protect the pipeline from damage in lieu of the 36 inches of cover required by (19.612(b)(3)). Each concrete mesh blanket unit is a 20-foot by 8-foot by 9-inch section constructed from 160 individually cast 17-inch by 17-inch by 9-inch beveled concrete briquettes inter-connected with 3/4-inch polypropylene UV stabilized line.

On May 27, 1999 we published a notice of petition for waiver with request for comments in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 27809 May 25, 1995). We received two comments. The first commenter opined that the alternative to cover the line with a 9" concrete mat did not appear to provide equal protection to the pipeline to that of 36" of natural cover. The commenter further stated that the mat would produce a hump on the gulf floor which may create further safety risk. The second commenter expressed interest in the proposal to require a rock shield. The commenter believed that a pipe of the diameter would have been concrete coated before installation thus negating the need for any further protection of the pipe from the concrete mesh blanket units.

We have considered the concerns expressed by the commenter and agree that the concrete mat could under some circumstances pose a hazard to navigation by reducing the water depth by 9-inches. However, the potential for adverse consequences of a vessel striking the mat is less than the potential for adverse consequence for a vessel striking and rupturing a high pressure natural gas pipeline. As evidenced by repeated surveys in this area, the gulf floor consists of sugar sands which are highly susceptible to erosion. Although the concrete mats