

PROCEDURES

PIPELINE FACILITIES INSPECTION

2.0 PURPOSE

Regular inspection of gas pipeline and pipeline facilities is an essential means of maintaining pipeline integrity.

The purpose of this section is to identify the inspection requirements and methods to be implemented.

2.1 EXTERNAL INSPECTION

A. Existing Facilities

1. Any time steel or other metallic pipe and or fittings are exposed and the protective coating is removed, inspection shall be conducted for signs of defects or damage. If the pipe coating is removed or the pipe is bare, a pipe to soil potential reading will be taken and recorded.
 - a. Acceptable range: - 0.85 volts to - 2.85 volts
 - b. **EXCEPTION:** When vacuum-extraction excavation method is used, opening only a small diameter excavation and the protective coating is not removed or damaged. Exceptions to recording a pipe to soil reading should be documented.
2. Recorded pipe to soil readings for steel or other metallic pipe activity on the appropriate form (Form VMO 309).
3. Contractors are responsible for taking and documenting pipe to soil readings whenever exposing and removing protective coating from steel or other metallic pipe.
4. Gas Operator personnel are responsible for the review of pipe to soil data and initiating any appropriate remedial action in accordance with operator's procedures.
5. Pipe-to-Soil readings that fall outside of the acceptable range, -0.85 to -2.85, shall be immediately forwarded along with the appropriate documentation to the Gas Supervisor or designee to ensure prompt remedial action.
6. The condition found for the pipe, fitting, and/or coating shall be recorded on the appropriate form(s).

B. New or Replacement Installation

1. Prior to lowering coated steel pipe into the excavation, all pipe coating shall be visually inspected for defects.
2. All welds that are field wrapped shall be visually inspected prior to installation.
3. Electronic holiday inspection shall be preformed prior to initial installation of

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any steel pipeline.

4. All holidays in the coating shall be repaired and re-inspected prior to installation.
5. During inspection, ensure that the entire circumference of pipe has been checked.
6. The condition found for the pipe, fitting, and/or coating shall be recorded on the appropriate form(s).

- C. Use only approved underground coatings for pipe to be buried, and approved above ground coating or paint (UV Protective) for pipe to be suspended or otherwise installed above ground.

2.2 INTERNAL INSPECTION

- A. Any time steel pipe is removed from the system or the pipe is tapped and a coupon is captured, the interior surface of the pipe shall be examined and all information about the location and condition shall be recorded on the appropriate form (twice each year whenever possible).
- B. Coupons that do not show any signs of corrosion may be discarded only after the appropriate operator personnel have reviewed the facility and documentation.
- C. Discarded coupons shall not be left in the trench.
- D. Coupons exhibiting signs of corrosion shall be immediately forwarded along with the appropriate documentation to the Gas Supervisor or designee to ensure prompt remedial action.

2.3 ATMOSPHERIC CORROSION

- A. The Operator will evaluate one third (1/3) of the system annually, and shall cover the entire system once every three years, inspecting for signs of atmospheric corrosion. This inspection shall include all above ground metallic facilities (MSA's, suspended crossings, pressure reducing stations, etc.).
- B. Signs of atmospheric corrosion include discolored and/or peeling paint, evidence of rust or oxidation of the metal surface, and any other condition that the operator believes may require remedial action.
- C. If any evidence of atmospheric corrosion is identified, that portion of metallic pipe

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and/or appurtenance shall be thoroughly cleaned, and painted or coated with approved-for above the ground, ultra violet light resistant, paint or coating.

Note: Most paints and wraps work best within a defined temperature range. Follow manufacturer's directions for application.

- D. Surveys, along with appropriate remedial action shall be documented.
- E. Above ground facilities showing signs of heavy rust or pitting, shall be reported immediately along with the appropriate documentation to the Gas Supervisor or designee to ensure prompt remedial action. Repair or replace as soon as practical.
- F. Use only approved for above ground, UV protective, coating or paint for pipe to be suspended or otherwise installed above ground.
- G. The condition found for the pipe, fitting, and/or coating shall be recorded on the appropriate form(s).