

Intelligent Pigging Towngas' Health Check for Its Transmission Pipelines

Leo M H Leung 21 May 2008

Towngas' Mission

To provide our customers with a safe, reliable supply of gas and the caring, competent and efficient service they expect, while working to preserve, protect and improve our environment.

2

Towngas' High & Intermediate Pressure Transmission Network



Transmission Pipeline Failure

August 2000 Carlsbad, New Mexico, US

- 1950's pipeline, 30" diameter, 675psi (46bar)
- Cause: Internal corrosion
- 12 people killed at camping site





Commonly Accepted Pipeline Integrity Assessment Methodologies

- Internal inspection devices
 → intelligent pigging
- External inspection techniques + Direct assessment
- Hydrostatic test

PIG?

- Why is it called a PIG?
 - Sounds like a pig screeches?
 - ... A "Pipeline Inspection Gauge"

Intelligent Pigging

- A wide range of inspection tools for:
 - Diameter / geometry measurements
 - Pipeline profile
 - Leak detection

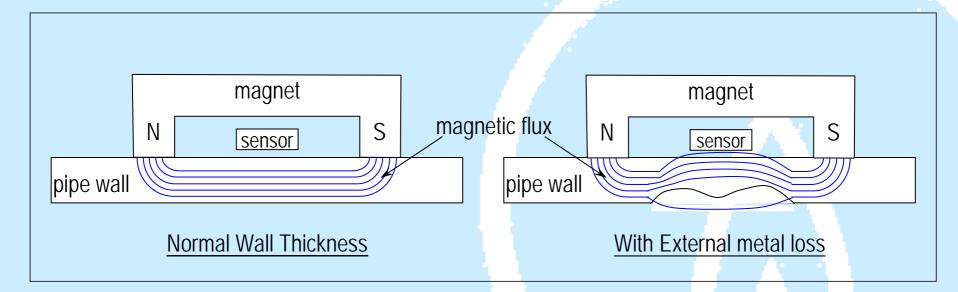


- Temperature / pressure recording
- Metal-loss / corrosion detection
- Crack detection
- etc.

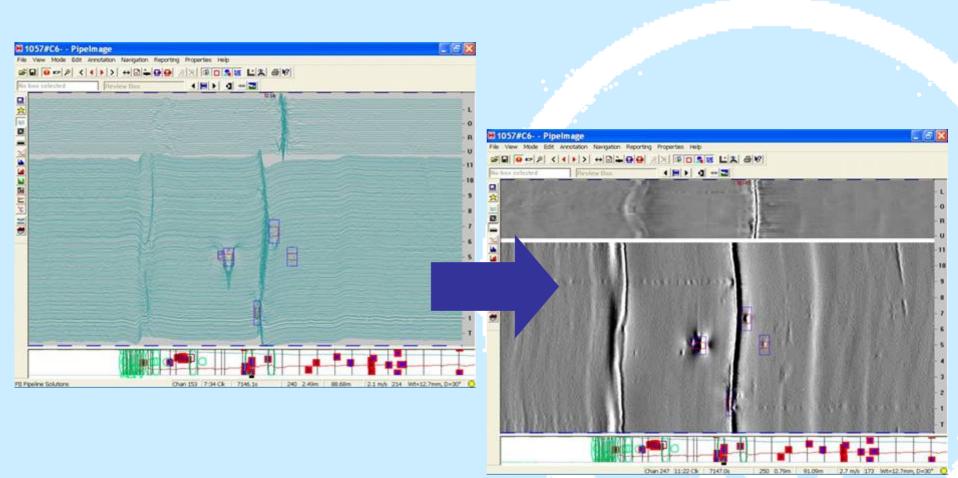
"The PIG"



Magnetic Flux Leakage Technology



Visualizing Anomalies



Verifying Anomalies Detected

• Example of Site Measurements

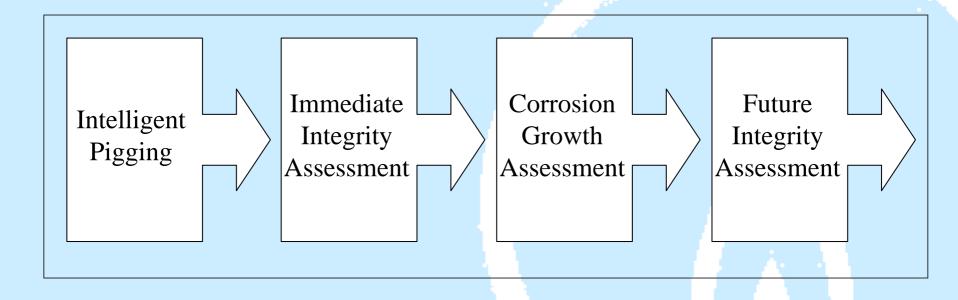


External Corrosion

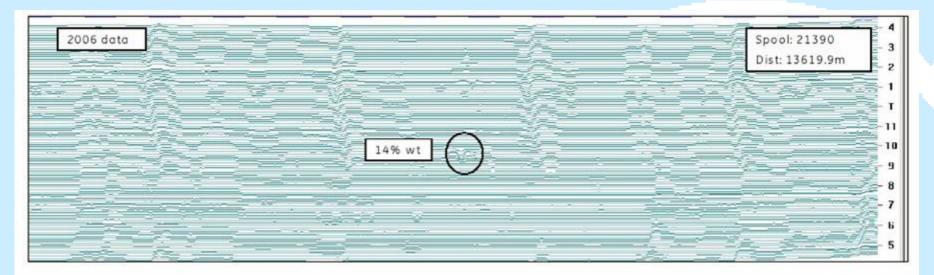
Close / Touching Metal Object



From Intelligent Pigging to Integrity Assessment



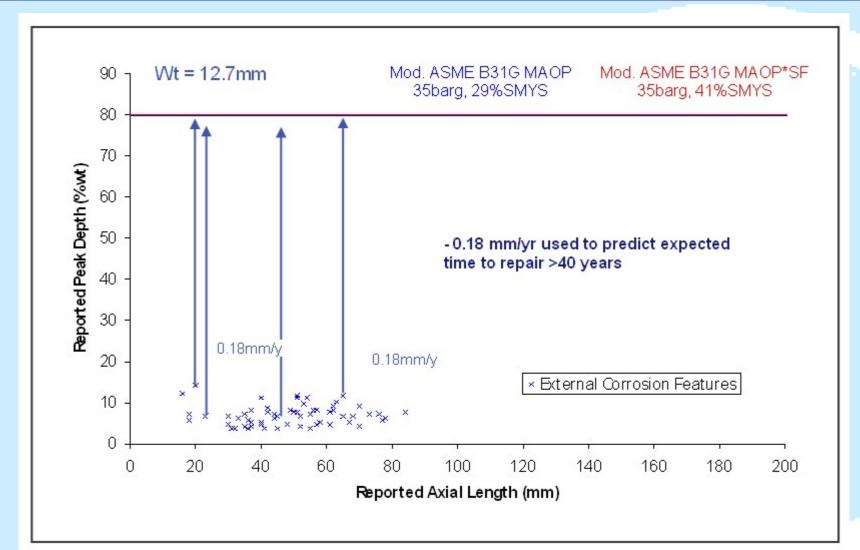
Future Integrity Assessment Determining Corrosion Rate



| 1996 data | |
|-----------|--------|
| | |
| 14% wt | 11 |
| | 6 5 |

13

Future Integrity Assessment Determining Maintenance Interval



14

Conclusion

- MFL Intelligent Pigging a good tool to assess the current condition of steel pipeline
- Useful information revealed by making use of consecutive inspection results, integrity assessments and other available pipeline data
- Informed decision on maintenance schedule and re-inspection interval made using such a risk-based approach



END