



Qualification of Personnel Performing New Construction Tasks & the Quality of Installation



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NAPSR QUESTIONNAIRE ON NEW PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

- March 2009 NAPSR requested input from state pipeline inspectors



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1. How many construction inspections did you perform last year?



- Responses ranged from 0 to 336 days
- Average for all responses was 111 days.



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2. What are the challenges found in inspecting pipeline construction?

- Qualification of Personnel
- Incorrect or no procedures on site (boring / welding / fusion)
- Company inspectors who were not qualified or did not have the knowledge or skills for the process in use



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Guidance on Carrying Out Requirements in the Gas DIMP Rule

To understand the distribution system's infrastructure an operator should know the location of its system and the materials used in constructing the system and other information such as location, material composition, piping sizes, **construction methods**, date of installation, soil conditions, pressure (operating and design), operating experience, performance data, condition of the system, and any other characteristics important to a thorough understanding of applicable threats and their contribution to risks.



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3. What are the most common findings from construction inspections?

1. OQ/Procedures
2. Lack of operator inspector knowledge, skills or abilities
3. Lack of / or inadequate inspection of operator & contractor crews



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4. In the pipeline welding area, what are the three most common findings?

- Procedures
 - Specifically: failure to have or to follow an approved procedure at the job site
- Qualification Issues
 - the inability to verify qualifications on the job site
- Inspection of Welds
 - “insufficient inspection of welds performed in field”
 - “There should be more emphasis on X-Ray technician's qualifications and inspecting quality of work and procedures.”
 - “Welding inspectors not visually inspecting weld. Relying on x-rays.”



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5. What are 3 most common findings in the area of installation, handling, coatings and testing?

- Coating
 - Damaged during installation
 - Improperly applied
- Installation
 - Improper bedding
 - Improper backfill
- Procedures
 - Failure to have or follow procedures
 - Lack of or faulty test equipment (gauges / jeeps)



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6. What are your findings on the preparation of as-built records by the pipeline installer?

- Responses varied:
 - “Inconsistent documentation regarding as-built information.”
 - “Significant lag time before as-builts are made available in the company mapping system.”

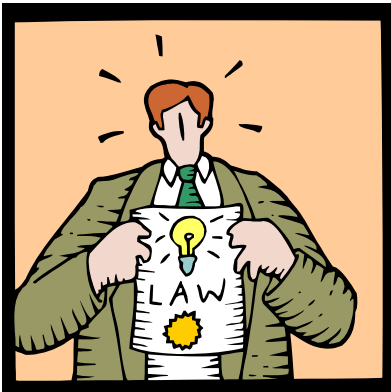


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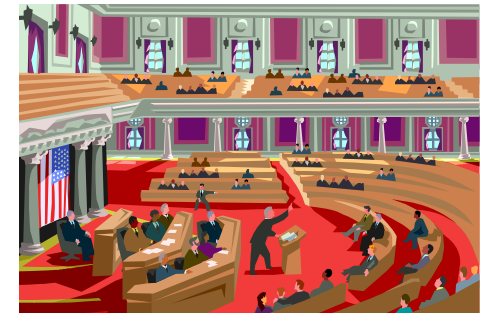
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8. What changes in the code would you make to ensure improvements in pipeline construction?

Majority of comments addressed OQ



- “Require OQ for new construction”
- “Recommend expanding the definition of a “covered task” to include new construction activities.”
- Apply drug/alcohol testing requirements to new construction.



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QUESTIONS?



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