

NATURAL GAS

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Distribution Integrity Management Programs Breakout Session

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Distribution Integrity Management



- We should remember that DIMP was developed as a collaborative effort. PHMSA, states, operators and public created the DIMP phase 1 report.
- Collaboration is still needed as we discuss way to effectively implement DIMP and explain the success created.

Distribution Integrity Management

- DIMP requires more collaboration than TIMP. The statute and regulation that created TIMP were very prescriptive. The only options to complete the baseline assessment that is the foundation of TIMP are pressure tests, ILI, ECDA, or other equivalent methods approved by PHMSA.
- The statute and regulation acknowledge that there are many paths to successful distribution integrity management.



DIMP Breakout Questions

Ground Rules

1. There is no such thing as a dumb question.
2. Cards are provided if participants want to submit questions anonymously.
3. The objective of the breakout session is for operators and regulators to share their perspective on how distribution safety can be improved and how to implement DIMP successfully.
4. The session is not designed to provide official regulatory interpretations.
5. We will do our best to summarize the input; feel free to clarify answers.
6. Questions not answered will be sent to PHMSA for further review.

DIMP Breakout Questions

General Program Issues

What approach was taken by operator for developing and implementing DIMP plans?
Were there difficulties encountered and how were they addressed?

What is Industry's perspective concerning the DIMP implementation inspections that have been conducted to date?

DIMP Breakout Questions

Observation and Operator Suggestions

What are operators observations on PHMSA/State inspections?

Are there suggestions for operators to facilitate continuous improvement of DIMP plans and their implementation?

What specific areas of concern does Industry have? What are the primary difficulties in implementing DIMP for operators? What suggestions exist for improvements/solutions?



DIMP Breakout Questions

Industry suggestions

What practices are industry employing that have proven to be beneficial for efficiently implementing a DIMP and/or improving the integrity of the distribution pipeline system?

DIMP Breakout Questions

Process Analysis Issues

What observations have been found regarding the usefulness of specific DIMP processes? Areas may include:

- Historical data analysis
- Field collection & documentation
- Managing data for assessing major replacement or rehabilitation programs
- Specific measures implemented to reduce risk
- Regional risk issues and differences





DIMP Breakout Questions

Program Performance Issues

What are people finding with the four performance measures plus other as yet undetermined performance?

- Hazardous leaks eliminated by material
- Total leaks by cause
- Excavation damages
- Excavation tickets

Can operators and state regulators define local/state success? How can success be identified and defined?

DIMP Breakout Questions

Final thoughts on any DIMP topic?

- Alternative inspection intervals
- New material
- R&D
- Enforcement

