

Comments are invited on: (a) The need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 12, 2001.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 01-6534 Filed 3-15-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket RSPA-98-4957; Notice 27]

Extension of Existing Information Collection

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Request for OMB approval and public comments.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) published a notice seeking public comments on a proposed renewal of an information collection for *Incorporation by Reference of Industry Standard on Leak Detection* (65 FR 81571, December 26, 2000). This information collection requires that hazardous pipeline operators who have leak detection systems must maintain records of these systems. No comments were received. The public is being given another 30 days to provide comments.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received April 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should identify the docket number of this notice, RSPA-98-4957, and be mailed directly to OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, 726 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20503, ATTN: Desk Officer for DOT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of

Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-6205 or by electronic mail at marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Incorporation by Reference of Industry Standard on Leak Detection.

OMB Number: 2137-0598.

Type of Request: Extension of an existing information collection.

Abstract: Pipeline safety regulations do not require hazardous liquid pipeline operators to have computer-based leak detection systems. However, if these operators choose to voluntarily acquire such software-based leak detection systems they must adhere to the American Petroleum Institute Standard API 1130 in operating, maintaining and testing their existing software-based leak detection systems. The testing information of these systems must be maintained by hazardous liquid pipeline operators.

Respondents: Hazardous liquid pipeline operators that use computational monitoring systems (CPM's) for leak detection.

Estimate of Burden: 2 hours per operator.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Burden: 100 hours.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50.

Copies of this information collection can be reviewed at the Dockets Facility, Plaza 401, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. They also can be viewed over the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Comments are invited on: (a) The need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 12, 2001.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 01-6537 Filed 3-15-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Cooperative Agreement DTRS656-00-H-0004]

Quarterly Performance Review Meeting on The Cooperative Agreement "Better Understanding of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines"

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: RSPA has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Gas Technology Institute (GTI) to co-fund a two-year research program to identify and characterize mechanical damage, a leading cause of reportable accidents in both gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, using the technology of magnetic flux leakage (MFL) oriented in the circumferential direction on an in-line inspection tool. RSPA, along with GTI, invite the pipeline industry, in-line inspection ("smart pig") vendors, and the general public to a quarterly performance review meeting to report on progress with the research "Better Understanding of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines." The meeting is open to anyone, and no registration is required. This work is being managed by GTI and performed by Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle), along with the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI). 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 next quarter.

DATES: The quarterly performance review meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2001 beginning at 2 p.m. and ending around 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The quarterly review meeting will be held at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, 101 Bowie, San Antonio, TX.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lloyd W. Ulrich, Agreement Officer's Technical Representative, Office of Pipeline Safety, telephone: (202) 366-4556, FAX: (202) 366-4566, e-mail: lloyd.ulrich@rspa.dot.gov. You may also contact Harvey Haines, Principal Investigator, GTI, telephone: (773) 399-8223, FAX: (773) 864-3495, e-mail: harvey.haines@gastechnology.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

RSPA has entered into a Cooperative Agreement (Cooperative Agreement DTRS656-00-H-0004) with the Gas

Technology Institute (GTI) to co-fund a two-year research program to identify and characterize mechanical damage, the leading cause of reportable accidents in both gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, using the technology of magnetic flux leakage (MFL) oriented in the circumferential direction on an in-line inspection tool.

We plan to conduct public semi-annual quarterly performance review meetings for the duration of this research. This meeting is the second semi-annual one to be conducted to provide an update on the research to the public, pipeline operators, vendors and interested governmental parties, such as RSPA technical and regional staff and the National Transportation Safety Board. Semi-annual meetings in the future will be held in conjunction with industry meetings, such as ones with the Association of Oil Pipelines, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, and the American Gas Association, in order to reach a broad audience. We want the pipeline industry and especially that segment of the pipeline industry involved with in-line inspection to be aware of the status of this research. The meetings allow disclosure of the results to interested parties and provide an opportunity for interested parties to ask questions concerning the research. Attendance at this meeting is open to all and does not require advance registration or advance notice to RSPA. Each of the semi-annual meetings will be announced in the **Federal Register** at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

The quarterly performance review meetings held between the semi-annual meetings described above will be held in conjunction with GTI/PRCI Technical Committee meetings.

II. The Research

This research continues work that DOT supported at Battelle to improve in-line inspection of mechanical damage and more closely coordinates work that GTI is supporting at Southwest Research Institute to develop critical assessment criteria based on these NDE measurements. This program extends the work conducted under the RSPA-funded contract "Detection of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines" (Contract DTRS-56-96-C-0010)¹ by looking at the circumferential magnetic flux leakage field instead of the traditional axial field and extends the critical assessment criteria research to work with full scale samples that are

being used for MFL measurements. The goal of the research is to evaluate and develop techniques for assessing pipeline metal loss, mechanical damage, and cracks using circumferential MFL. These techniques are expected to complement the techniques used for axial MFL systems.

The research will extend the failure assessment methodology for mechanically damaged pipes to include the influence of local cold working due to the gouging/denting process on the pipe's remaining life. The program will combine full scale tests and MFL monitoring of pipes, laboratory tests and elastic-plastic finite element analyses to develop a validated methodology for determining the remaining life of a damaged pipe. The proposed SwRI research will complement the work at Battelle in developing criteria for characterizing mechanical damage found through in-line inspection.

III. Agenda for the Meeting

The following is the agenda for the meeting :

"Overview Project History and Impact of the DOT/GTI Projects for Using In-Line Inspection for Mechanical Damage."

Harvey Haines-GTI (15 min)

"Defect Manufacture and Installation."

Tom Bubenik-Battelle (30 min)

"Damage Severity Criteria Program Overview and Elastic Plastic Finite Element Analysis"

Graham Chell-SwRI (30 min)

Break

"Circumferential Magnetizer Design and Data"

Bruce Nestleroth-Battelle (30 min)

"Non-Linear Harmonics Measurement"

Al Crouch-SwRI (30 min)

"Tool Development for Implementation in Actual Pipelines"

Carl Torres-Tuboscope (30 min)

"Wrap up and comments"

Lloyd Ulrich-DOT (10-15 min)

IV. Tour of SwRI Facilities

On Thursday morning, April 19, 2001, Southwest Research Institute will offer a tour to anyone interested in the facilities used in this research project. Interested parties should contact Al Crouch at SwRI, (210) 522-3157.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 12, 2001.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 01-6535 Filed 3-15-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

[Docket No. RSPA-00-8453; Notice 2]

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company: Grant of Waiver and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of grant of waiver and finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) is approving a waiver of certain regulatory requirements relating to class location changes on four natural gas pipeline segments (the "waiver segments") operated by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP) and is permitting TGP to carry out alternative risk control activities (the "Activities") in lieu of compliance with these requirements. The waiver segments are located on the parallel Lines 800-1, 500-1, 500-2, and 500-3, approximately 11.2 miles downstream of Compressor Station 860, in Hickman and Dickson Counties, Tennessee. The waiver segments include a total of 15,006 feet of pipeline.

Background: In 1997, OPS selected Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP) as a candidate for participation in the Risk Management Demonstration Program; subsequently, OPS and TGP held discussions as part of a consultation process. During the consultation, TGP identified a portion of its system (the "waiver segments") where it believed performing alternative risk control activities (the "Activities") in lieu of compliance with current pipeline safety regulations addressing class location changes would result in a comparable margin of safety and environmental protection. While OPS and TGP continued to consult, TGP applied¹ for a waiver of the requirements of 49 CFR 192.611 for the waiver segments and implementation of the Activities in lieu of compliance.

Alternative Approach: Rather than replacing pipe or requalification testing, as required for each waiver segment under 49 CFR 192.611, TGP proposed to perform the following alternative risk control activities, with the objective of providing a margin of safety and environmental protection comparable to pipe replacement or requalification testing:

¹ Letter form D.K. Moore, Tennessee Gas Pipeline, to R.B. Felder, OPS, June 30, 1998.

¹ The final report on this research dated June 2000 is available on the OPS web site, <http://ops.dot.gov>.