

PIPELINE INDUSTRIES GUILD

ONSHORE TECHNICAL PANEL

MEETING OF 9TH MARCH 2004, LONDON

KEY POINTS

ATTENDEES

Bill HUGHES (Chair)
Brian SPENCER
Ernie HOLDEN
John COPPACK
Mike LOVELEE
Phil PARKINSON

Richard GRAY
Dave WILLIS
Andrew JACKSON
Paul GODDEN
Chris MOVLEY

Richard GLENISTER (part time)

1. APOLOGIES

Stephen BLACKMAN
John BARR
Paul O'CONNELL
Richard ESPINER
John VARDON

Graham WILCOCK
Eric MARTIN
Roger SARGOLOGO
Richard PRATT

2. ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 PRESENTATION BY CHRIS MOVLEY OF THE HSE, NORWICH ON AC-INDUCED CORROSION ON PIPELINES RUNNING PARALLEL TO OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES

The slides from Chris MOVLEY's presentation are attached. These refer to two cases of the impact of AC induced corrosion caused by overhead transmission lines running parallel to buried pipelines. The most susceptible are thin walled, FBE coated pipes laid in soils with a high resistivity. The problem can be resolved by laying a zinc-coated steel ribbon adjacent to the pipeline (reduces the induced current by an order of magnitude). This can be reduced by a further order of magnitude if the ribbon is bonded to the pipeline. This is normal practice in the US for personnel H&S reasons where the problem is not encountered.

[Panel members are reminded that the cases are confidential and should not be publicised in any way that may cause embarrassment to the either the operators or the HSE.]

It was agreed that the operators of single pipelines (e.g. to power stations) should be encouraged to get involved with the Guild and that an initiative should be taken to approach them.

Action by Bill HUGHES and secretariat to approach these pipeline operators.

2.2 TRANS-CANADA PIPELINE INCIDENT

Bill HUGHES reported on Stephen BLACKMAN's feedback on the cause of the previously reported failures of the Trans-Canada Pipeline. The two failures were reported to be due to external corrosion defects. The close timing of their failure appears to have been coincidental.

Other items are covered in agenda items below.

3. BS8010 UPDATE

Nothing further to report currently. For further information please contact David WILLIS on 07740 467605.

4. SAFETY ISSUES

4.1 DAMAGE TO ESSO's SOUTH EAST PIPELINE, DARTFORD

It's believed that illegal tipping of spoil that included broken blocks of reinforced concrete when forming a bund around the former Joyce Green Hospital site in Dartford had led to impact damage by reinforcing bar and subsequent corrosion to the 250 mm (10 inch) pipeline that had been re-buried to a depth of >1 m. This had been detected by intelligent pigging that's undertaken every 7 years on this pipeline. Photographs are attached separately.

Fly tipping had also caused damage to Esso's pipeline near Gatwick, where the tipper had received a suspended sentence. A discussion followed on the roles various parties (landowners, tippers and insurers) in such cases.

It was suggested that an insurance representative should be invited to speak to the Panel:

Action by John COPPACK and Phil PARKINSON to arrange and invite Rob WILLIAMS, Chair of Utility Panel [Ewan Associates] to next Onshore Panel meeting where this topic is to be discussed.

4.2 TAPPING OF PIPELINE, HUNTON HILL, BIRMINGHAM (UK)

The Technical Forum on 17th February 2004 had included a presentation by Fulcrum Connections. This had outlined the total change in management culture, senior management personnel, procedures and organisation to bring safety to be their principal driver following the incident. Unfortunately, it was reported that the contractor (skip hire company) that had done the drilling had not made any improvements to it's working methods or management of information / drawings following the incident.

Esso had modelled the likely environmental effects of the loss of diesel from the pipeline that was being carried at the time (though gasoline was being transported the following day). They were asked to consider modelling the potential impact of an incident if gasoline had been in transit, as it had been on the day following the near miss.

Action by Bill HUGHES and Dick GRAY to report to the next Panel meeting.

4.3 SEWER OUTFALL, GUJARAT

Dave WILLIS was unable to report, but hopes to be able to provide slides for the next meeting (May 2004) illustrating several practical problems of managing safety when working with local contractors for an inter-tidal pipe pull totalling 4 kms.

4.4 VESSEL CONSTRUCTION FOR BP – HHI SHIPYARD, KOREA

Two fatalities caused by falls from height (one incident) and one fatality from working on a pressurised vessel (removing cover under pressure) on the following day.

4.5 BOILER FAILURE ON LNG PLANT – SKIKDA, ALGERIA

Twenty-seven fatalities followed the failure of a boiler knock out drum in one of the LNG plants on 20th January 2004. [Information from Penspen at the PIG Dinner drew attention to recent reports that the accident was caused by failure of a pipeline, not of a fired boiler.]

5. TECHNICAL FORUM

Although no actions had been defined following the Technical Forum held at Birmingham Airport on 17th February 2004, it was felt that there had been a valuable exchange of views and that the Guild had important roles to play:

- In increasing awareness of the risk and consequences of third party damage to pipelines
- In investigating near misses and their potential consequences
- In promoting implementation of a “one-call” system (in which the co-operation of the HSE was seen as essential), and
- Promoting changes voluntarily within the industry before they are imposed by the government (as is considered likely after a major incident).

78 delegates had attended from 38 companies / organisations. On behalf of the Panel, Bill HUGHES thanked Brian SPENCER for organising the event and Ernie HOLDEN for his paper.

6. UKOPA NEWS

There had been no meeting since the last Onshore Panel meeting on 20th January 2004 and there was nothing to report.

7. PIG DEVELOPMENTS

The Panel will be looking for a new chairman after this year's AGM since Bill HUGHES' term will be run. Brian SPENCER was nominated and provisionally agreed (subject to him finalising work commitments).

Richard GLENISTER drew attention to the International Pipeline Exposition (IPE) in Calgary in October 2004 where the Guild is receiving sponsorship from the UK Government. Details will be published in the March 2004 edition of *Pipeline World*.

No further details were reported since Richard GLENISTER was unable to attend the later part of the meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 ROLE OF THE TECHNICAL PANELS

It was noted that attendance at Onshore Technical Panel meetings had decreased from about two dozen to roughly half this figure in the past year.

The following suggestions were made:

- The possible benefit of recombining the Onshore and Utilities Panels should be considered in view of several common interests (e.g. AC corrosion, one-call system, etc) and the perceived problems faced by the Utilities Panel (lack of commitment and progress)
- The need for the Onshore Panel chairman to contact those who repeatedly fail to attend the meetings (say every twelve months) to see if they wish to withdraw to allow an alternative member to be appointed
- To review the balance and make-up of the Panel every twelve months and suggest new members
- The Guild should proactively approach “mover and shakers” to promote a one-call system and to express concern about the potential harm that may be caused by a third party incident and to highlight recent near misses.

It was agreed there was a need to balance this with not being seen as scare mongering and with the potential to prejudice future pipeline proposals in terms of the public's perception of pipeline safety.

8.2 TECHNICAL PAPERS / AWARDS

Three technical papers had been judged by John BANYARD (PIG President), John COPPACK and Bill HUGHES and the winner selected would be announced at the PIG Dinner (on the evening of 9th March 2004).

9. NEXT MEETING

NOTE - CHANGED DATE: 25th May 2004 at Cranfield University to see the facilities (welding technology, the Library, etc).

- Meeting to start at 11h00
- Buffet lunch at about 12h30
- Tour of the facilities after the meeting at about 14h30.

Phil PARKINSON
9th March 2004