



Update on UKOPA initiative on sleeves

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Background

- ❑ The integrity management of pipeline sleeves is an issue for all pipeline operators and the HSE have suggested this could be a topic for an industry initiative.
- ❑ Main threat is integrity of the carrier pipe in the sleeve
- ❑ Pipeline sleeves, of different types and annular fills, have historically been used;
 - to provide pressure containment in the event of a failure
 - to provide additional protection at crossings
 - to assist in the construction process.
- ❑ **Aim is to develop and agree a UKOPA strategy for managing pipeline sleeves – to cover best practice for maintenance, inspection, remediation.**

Issues for the industry

- Large number of pipeline sleeves, many on unpiggable pipelines, of different configurations, different fill materials etc
- What is the condition of the carrier pipe?
- Record to date has been good, but these are aging assets – a few incidents have occurred in the US
- What is best practice for maintenance, inspection, remediation?

Progress

- ❑ Prioritisation of sleeves for assessment and remediation
 - ❑ GL Report 13065 - Ranking Scheme for Prioritising the Inspection of Pipeline Sleeves
 - ❑ Spreadsheet available reflects report scoring system to automate risk ranking

- ❑ Sleeve management strategy document developed, which includes maintenance algorithms for nitrogen filled sleeves and sleeves containing annular fill other than nitrogen
 - ❑ Being updated to include testing and monitoring techniques, clearing of shorted sleeves and inspection tools

- ❑ Review of ILI results in sleeved sections
 - ❑ Scope of work developed
 - ❑ Proposals from contractors are now being received