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Integrity Assessments-External Corrosion

- Holistic assessment uses data from:
 - ILI 🛛
 - Coating surveys
 - CP surveys
 - SoilsExpert opinion





Niels Bohr (1885 – 1962)

> Nobel Prize in Physics 1922

Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future





- Generally good for external corrosion
- Primarily used for remaining strength assessment



Figure 6-5 Distribution of External metal loss anomalies in relation to their depths (%wt)





ILI data – Corrosion Orientation

- Orientation gives information on likely cause
 - Field joint coatingBackfill







ILI Data - Corrosion Rates

- Multiple defect matching from two sets of ILI data
- Tolerances can have a big impact at low corrosion rates
- Statistician needs to be confident in the results
- Used to determine repair dates and next inspection





Cathodic Protection Monitoring

- Cathodic protection performance monitored using potential criterion:
 - Indicates whether corrosion can/cannot occur.
 - Gives no indication of corrosion rate
 - Leading Indicator
 - Criterion -850 or -950mV?
 - ON or OFF Potential?
- Need to consider accuracy of measurement, coating type and condition, ac corrosion.





Close Interval Potential Surveys

- **Provides more data**
- Many possible error sources
 - Pipe Potential (V) Poor synchronisation of time switches.
 - Sacrificial anodes connected to the pipeline.
 - Bonds to other pipelines that are not switched.
 - **Potential spikes during** switching (if not allowed for).
 - Stray current from other dc sources.
 - Poor contact in the measurement circuit.
 - **Excessive manipulation of raw** data
- Assessing data quality is important
- **Snapshot in time**



Time



Case Study 1

- 20 inch x 140km pipeline
- Age 51 years
- Plycoflex coating
- Impressed current CP
- Rocky ground conditions



Corrosion along full length of pipeline



ILI Data Orientation

- Corrosion around full circumference
- Higher rate in lower half
- Wetter in lower half







Cathodic Protection Data – ON only





Tape Coating Failure Mode

- Early type PE butyl rubber tape
- Poor adhesion at the overlap
- Soil stresses cause wrinkling and sagging
- Moisture ingress around full circumference

Conclusion:

•Verification digs to confirm assessment

• CIPS survey to better assess CP

• CP will always struggle due to shielding







Above Ground Sections

- Corrosion under pipe supports where access is not easy.
- Corrosion rate 0.12 0.38 mm/yr



From adulca.com

- Typical corrosion rate under pipe supports in coastal environment.
- Water and soluble salts can be retained in the crevice between the pipe and support.



Stoprust.com



Below Ground Sections

Area of corrosion anomalies

- Corrosion rate low 0.04 -0.07mm/yr
- Only ON potential data available
- Look OK but misleading.
- Corresponds with low elevation on pipeline with chalk high points either side
- Between CP stations



Conclusions: •Move and recoat under pipe supports

- Verification digs
- •CIP Survey needed
- •CP needs adjustment

•OFF potentials should be routine



Case Study 3

- 10 inch pipeline
- ~70 years old
- Coating asphalt enamel – site applied
- Impressed current CP – 13 stations over 33km
- Shared same trench with other pipelines





Field Joint Coating

- Concentration of external corrosion features at field joints
- Field joint coated hand applied hot enamel
- Still significant number of defects elsewhere





Historic CIPS Data 1996





CIPS Data 2007 and 2013



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Cathodic Protection - History

- Limited data available
- CP Station outputs reviewed
- Outputs declined over year due to aging groundbeds and misinformed adjustment





Overlaying ILI Defect Data and CP Station Outputs





Case Study 3

- Verification digs found coating contained coke particles
- Coke forms a galvanic couple with the steel causing high corrosion rates
- -850 mV not enough
- -950 mV not enough

Conclusion:

Coating coked during application
Potential criterion used inappropriate
Restoration of CP Station current capacity ++ a priority





Conclusions

- ILI data can give a good picture of a pipelines condition
- Detailed statistical analysis of the data is a key step:
 - Corrosion distribution
 - Corrosion orientation
 - Corrosion rate Re-inspection interval, repair programme
 - Confidence level
- Input from an experienced pipeline corrosion engineer:
 - Enables integration and interpretation of CP and coating data
 - Enhances the confidence level
 - Identifies the most probable cause
 - Enables mitigation measures to be developed





Thank you for your attention.



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