

Public Page
Applying External Corrosion Direct Assessment to Difficult to Inspect Areas #130
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ECDA is a process designed to provide an alternative method of pipeline integrity assessment that may be used in lieu of ILI and pressure testing. The ECDA process is contained in NACE document RP0502. It has been embraced by the industry and included in regulatory documents pertaining to pipeline integrity management plans. ECDA validation has been an industry concern since the industry does not have extensive experience with implementing the process as a whole.

A previous ECDA validation effort conducted by Battelle has been completed. This provided evidence that the ECDA process is viable within the limits of the variables considered in that project. Some conditions that could be more difficult to inspect were considered in the previous project but other difficult to inspect areas were omitted from the previous project. In order for pipeline operators to successfully complete an ECDA project in accordance with the CFR's, such locations must be considered to assist operators with completion of an ECDA on many pipelines.

The objective of this project will be to extend the anecdotal information that has been used to describe expected difficulties in implementing the ECDA process to specific sites such as station pipeline (meter stations or compressor stations) or bare pipeline. The expected outcome will be to independently assess and/or verify whether ECDA is actually of little use in these areas, or to offer suggestions or insights to make the ECDA process more amenable to evaluating these sites so that operators have a sound basis to make integrity assessments.