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This project is based on ongoing efforts by GTI and EWI to improve field welding and coating practices. This combined expertise, data, and experience will be augmented by pipeline welding contractors, operators and coating manufacturer application partners.

During the fourth quarter of the project:

Currently, GTI/EWI is developing protocols to improve welding-coating coordination. GTI/EWI will develop field protocols to improve (1) welding and field application practices and (2) coordination between the welders and coaters. This may include changes to current welding and post-welding procedures, coating surface preparation and application procedures, and coating selection. A set of clear/concise recommendations will be submitted for incorporation into consensus guides and recommended practices (e.g., NACE/SSPC, AWS, API, AGA, etc.).

Additionally, GTI/EWI initiated small scale tests of simulated welds. GTI/EWI manufactured simulated girth welds that will be coated and subjected to coating performance tests. These small scale experiments will help identify the effects of the weld's geometry (cap height, undercut, and splatter) on coating performance. The test results will confirm or demonstrate the need to modify the developed protocols.

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