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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 fifth quarter of the project:

GTI/EWI developed protocols to improve welding-coating coordination. GTI/EWI utilized survey results from task 1 to consolidate currently used standards. This protocol sets the baseline of acceptability in welding and coating quality. This protocol will be put into practice with full scale sample welds and small scale simulated welds to determine its effectiveness. Due to the variability in welding and coating requirements, depending on the products involved, it is critical to have communication between the parties involved before beginning work. In a pre-job conference the differing requirements on the welders and coaters can be identified. Once the differences are identified, a responsible party can be chosen for each given task.

Additionally, GTI/EWI continued to try to find an appropriate time to get all parties involved in the large scale welding and coating application. In the coming quarter these large scale and small simulated test welds will be coated and subjected to analysis. These results will help determine the protocol's effectiveness and identify areas that need modification.

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