SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE®
SUMMARY STATUS FOR PROJECT 14.06170
AGREEMENT DTRS56-02-T-0004
"BASELINE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE IN-LINE INSPECTION (ILI) VEHICLES"

STATUS OF WORK THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2002

This nine-month project relates to the problem of unpiggable pipelines. Pipelines may be unpiggable for many reasons including the configuration of the pipeline, the operating pressure of the transported medium and the flow rate. The future of in-line inspection will be enhanced if inspection can be effected by devices that can function in unpiggable (as well as piggable) pipelines.

This project is documenting the current state of the pipeline system, the current capabilities of internal inspection systems and the potential for new vehicle concepts which can increase the capabilities of those systems.

The start of the project was delayed by efforts to establish the cofunding arrangements and by normal work delays at the end of the calendar year. Work accomplished to date includes discussions of pipeline configurations and ILI limitations with one of the leading ILI vendors. Also, sources of technology for robotic devices that are adaptable to ILI work were identified. Several interesting new concepts were found and follow-up will take place in the current quarter.

Point of Contact

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