

Quarterly Report – Public Page

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Prepared for: **U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety Administration**
Project Title: **Improvements to the External Corrosion Direct Assessment
(ECDA) Process (WP#360): Severity Rankings of ECDA Indirect
Inspection Indications**
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An inaugural meeting was held on July 8, 2008 with the corporate partners and PHMSA Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR). Aside from the COTR representing PHMSA, the others present at the meeting were the representatives of Texas Gas Association, ExxonMobil, and El Paso. Separate meetings were held with ExxonMobil, El Paso, and Panhandle. The essential conclusions reached at these meetings could be summarized as follows: (1) all information and data Corrpro receives will be confidential and (2) all relevant data from work that was performed by Corrpro, on behalf of each corporate partner, will be utilized for the benefit of this project.

A preliminary search was undertaken aimed at identifying key issues affecting severity rankings of ECDA indirect inspection indications. The key issues raised by this preliminary search could be summarized as follows:

- The definition of “Minor”, “Moderate”, “Severe” in the NACE RP 0502-2002 Severity table is not easy to apply and is difficult to explain.
- To determine the accuracy of aboveground tools requires that all defects identified should be subjected to direct examinations.
- There are limited modifications that could be made to better clarify severity classifications except possibly using R-STRENG.
- Classifications tend to be conservative when compared to actual coating defects/anomalies discovered during excavation inspections.
- The pipeline industry needs technology to assist them in the understanding of their problems.

Meanwhile, an assessment summary table was developed aimed at obtaining information from corporate team members for severity rankings of ECDA indirect inspection indications. The table requires the corporate members to provide hard data that could be used for statistical analysis of severity rankings of ECDA indirect inspection indications.

New concepts in the prioritization of multiple ECDA indications are discussed.