

Public Page

Emerging Padding and Related Pipeline-Construction Practices Agreement DTRS56-03-T-0005 3rd Quarterly Status Report Period January 1, 2004 to March 31, 2004 Contractor: Battelle

The objective of this planned two-year project is to quantify the merits of modifications to existing construction practices and emerging practices related to pipeline padding. The work will assist the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) in determining the value of such construction practices when made in the context of performance-based inspection or re-inspection plans in response to pending pipeline safety legislation. The project will complement an INGAA funded program. The combined effort will involve field evaluation of these emerging approaches for benching pipelines and for bedding and padding in areas where native soils contain rock and other debris that could damage the pipeline or degrade its integrity over time. Benchmarks for comparison will cover a variety of soil types, and existing as well as emerging practices, to provide a basis to assess improvements in contrast to current practices.

Because construction activity slows during the winter months, the focus in the third quarter included characterizing benching methods and qualitative analysis of data gathered in field measurements made during visits to the construction sites. Benching models have been evaluated with respect to relative stiffness and their role in the pipe settling into the bedding. Qualitative data trending is largely completed for three sites, data for which were gathered over several spreads. Options for additional visits are being developed in coordination with several companies, to generate results needed to complete the work scope. At this point, at least two such visits appear to be useful in expanding the data scope, particularly in reference to soils that involve a mix of rock and heavy clay. Whether or not certain equipment is working also will be a factor.

Point of Contact:

Brian Leis
Battelle
505 King Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43201
leis@battelle.org
Voice: 614-424-4421
Fax: 614-458-4421