Dent Assessment Natural Gas Pipelines Perspective



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Agenda

- Background
- Screening Dents for Excavation and Further Assessment
- ECA for Dents with ML or at a GW
- Areas for Further R&D

TransCanada Dent Assessment Process

- Compliance with CSA Z662
- Due to limitation of ILI technology (ML in dents, cracks, gouges) introduced additional criteria for screening dents a combined approach:
 - Strain calculated from both ASME B31.8 and modified equations (initiated 2007)
 - Screen dents based on plastic strain damage criterion
 - MFL signal characterization criterion (initiated in 2009)
- Issue with caliper tool and data resolved by high resolution caliper specification development

Screening Approach

- Dent is characterized by strain for all analyses
 - Geometric Strain Assessment (for screening purposes) input is detailed caliper data or in ditch laser data
 - Circumferential & Longitudinal Bending Strain
 - Circumferential & Longitudinal Membrane Strain
- Dent can develop a crack during its formation
 - Convert the strain into a plastic damage parameter DFDI (uses a material property called critical strain) plus MFL signal analysis
- Not a depth or a strain level criteria
- DFDI (for screening) is a ratio of total strain to critical strain (factored for stress)

	ASME B31.8	Modified Equation	
Circumferential Bending Strain, 81	$\varepsilon_{\rm t} = \frac{f}{2} \left(\frac{1}{R_{\rm s}} - \frac{1}{R_{\rm t}} \right)$	$\varepsilon_1 = \frac{t}{2} \left(\frac{1}{R_0} - \frac{1}{R_1} \right)$	
Circumferential Membrane Strain, ϵ_4	Assumed to be zero	Assumed to be zero for moderate dents, o modeled with changing the length in circuferential direction, or use FEA	
Longitudinal Bending Strain, ϵ_2	$\varepsilon_2 = \frac{-t}{2R_2}$	$\varepsilon_2 = \frac{-t}{2R_2}$	
Longitudinal Membrane Strain, ϵ_3	$\varepsilon_3 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d}{L}\right)^2$	$\varepsilon_3 = 2\left(\frac{d}{L}\right)^2$	
Shear Strain, _{Yxy}	Assumed to be zero	to be zero Assumed to be zero or FEA	
Effectve strain ϵ_{eff}	$\mathcal{E}_{eff} = \sqrt{\mathcal{E}_x^2 - \mathcal{E}_x \mathcal{E}_y + \mathcal{E}_y^2}$	$\begin{split} \varepsilon_{eq} &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\varepsilon_x^2 + \varepsilon_x \varepsilon_y + \varepsilon_y^2} \\ \varepsilon_{eq} &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\varepsilon_x^2 + \varepsilon_x \varepsilon_y + \varepsilon_y^2 + \gamma_{xy}^2/2} \end{split}$	
	$\varepsilon_{\max} = Max[\varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_o]$	$\varepsilon_{\max} = Max[\varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_a]$	

Screening Criteria

- ASME B31.8 (2003 Edition) Introduced 6% strain limit for plain dents (empirical)
- Limitations of ASME B31.8 criterion
 - Plastic strain level of 12% for cracking is below the actual measured strain limit for cracking for most line pipe steels.
 - One strain limit for all steel grades is not appropriate.
- Critical-strain-based Ductile Failure Damage criterion
 - Quantify progressive damage limit for avoiding onset of failure in ductile materials.
 - Ductile Fracture Damage Index (DFDI) Criteria
 - DFDI >1 is onset of cracking
 - Conservative Screening criteria DFDI >0.6
 - DFDI = $\varepsilon_{eq}/(\varepsilon_0/1.65)$ --- simplified for screening



$$DFDI = \frac{1}{1.65\varepsilon_c} \int_{0}^{\varepsilon_{eq}} \exp\left(\frac{3\sigma_m}{2\sigma_{eq}}\right) d\varepsilon_{eq} \, or$$

Strain Criteria – Validated With Experiments

Denting (NPS 34, X52, 1.5" Dia. Indenter) – Pipe body and weld (seam/girth)Test Setup

- MTS Hydraulic Actuator with Indenter
- LVDT for displacement measurement (OD%)
- Strain gages for strain measurement
- Video camera for real time monitoring and recording
- In-situ Laserscan for real time strain measurement
- Acoustic sensor was mounted close to the dent deformation area to monitor the cracking sound if any during the test



Screening Criteria – MFL Signal Assessment

- When characterizing the MFL signals in combination with the dent strain level, some new insight is gained into unique features of the signals that may be associated with ML in a dent:
 - Rule #1: A single strong MFL signal and located at the dent apex or highest strain spot in the dent, then the metal loss feature is most likely to be a crack.
 - Rule #2: Many general metal loss signals distributed within the dent area, then it is most likely to be corrosion.
 - Rule #3: A strong metal loss feature signal oriented circumferentially and located at dent apex or highest strain spot, then it is probably associated with gouge.
 - Rule #4: a strong metal loss feature signal located at dent apex or highest strain spot surrounded with general shallower metal loss features, then it is probably either a gouge or crack.





DFDI = 0.93





Examples Findings – 15 Cases

- Three pipeline segments with combo ILI reporting 6361 dents, 150 selected using screening method.
- Strain, DFDI and MFL analyses identified 15 dents for further validation.
 - Model prediction
 - 7 dents crack or gouges
 - 8 dents metal loss
- Excavation Results:
 - 7 dents with cracks or gouges.
 - 8 dents, corrosion or manufacturing defects (negativenegative)

Case +S+ O6:T20	ε _{eq} (%)	Upper bound DFDI	Prediction	Excavation	Prediction- Excavation		
1	10.20%	0.6	Possible crack	Through wall crack	Positive-positive		
2	15.00%	0.8	Possible crack	Through wall crack	Positive-positive		
3	16.90%	0.9	Possible crack and gouge	Gouge	Positive-positive		
4	13.00%	0.7	Low confidence of possible crack	ID crack	Positive-positive		
5	31.00%	1.7	Crack with gouge	Gouge	Positive-positive		
6	17.60%	1	Possible crack	ID / OD crack	Positive-positive		
7	11.50%	0.6	Possible crack	Through wall crack	Positive-positive		
8	6.80%	0.4	no crack	6% ML dent on rock	Negative-negative		
9	7.10%	0.4	no crack	16% ML dent on rock	Negative-negative		
10	10.50%	0.6	no crack	12% ML dent on rock	Negative-negative		
11	9.90%	0.5	no crack	16% ML dent on rock	Negative-negative		
12	5.00%	0.3	no crack	36% OD corrosion	Negative-negative		
13	9.00%	0.5	no crack	10% ML dent on rock	Negative-negative		
14	7.80%	0.4	no crack	15% OD corrosion	Negative-negative		
15	3.60%	0.2	no crack	37% OD corrosion	Negative-negative		

Examples of Findings – Further Validation



Screening Approach - Summary

- Follow code requirements and complement with the combined approach to identify critical features:
 - DFDI assessment using geometric strain
 - Assess MFL data when DFDI greater than 0.6
- EPRG fatigue analyses check (no FEA strain required)
- If the above filtering identifies the dent then -Excavate to repair or perform an ECA



Approach for ECA for Dents with ML and/or on a GW

- Assess ILI data in detail + run comparison
- Identify all loads on the dent (welds, external and other local deformation)
- Geometric & FEA strain
- DFDI analyses
- If the above identifies dent then perform detailed fatigue analyses with FEA strain:
 - Apply the pressure differential
 - Obtain strain differential
 - Strain differential used for estimating fatigue life
 - Lowest fatigue life between Markl and SWT is used







API 1156 – 111,816 cycles

Markl – 19,921 to 2621 cycles

SWT - 66,740

GAPS & Opportunities – Mechanical Damage Assessment

- ILI delineation of dents (caliper and MFL)
 - Definition of high resolution caliper
 - Better identification and characterization of features interacting with dents
- Further validation of the DFDI
- Fatigue analyses model comparison to dents modeled with critical strain and other results