Bureau Veritas
Services

BUREAU VERITAS
Move Forward with Confidence

Pipeline Integrity Management

Keep your "License to Operate"
and enhance your pipeline safety and reliability

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Over the years, new regulations, safety and environmental concerns from the public have emphasized the requirement for pipeline owners to demonstrate and document the safe operation of their facilities. What were originally technical issues related to inspection and maintenance have now been wrapped up in the general concept of pipeline integrity management. The safety and reliability of pipelines have indeed become a social accountability issue at corporate level for every operator, along with the easy access to the data and their transparency.

SOLUTION

What is Pipeline Integrity Management?
Just like any pressure equipment and facility containing and transporting hazardous products, pipelines are subject to regular statutory inspections, verifications and re-certifications. Until recently, such requirements were prescriptive and, for instance, they imposed pressure testing of oil pipelines every 10 years. However, in the USA and in Europe, a novel approach is being implemented, where the pipeline operators are now required to demonstrate and document that the integrity of their pipeline facilities is maintained at all times. It is also specified that the pipeline owners must have assessed the risks associated with the operation of their facilities and have taken all the measures to mitigate the consequences of any failure.
In other words, the operators are requested to have a comprehensive integrated Pipeline Integrity Management System (PIMS) in place: a PIMS is much more than a set of tools or an inspection and maintenance program, it is a management system encompassing engineering, operation, inspection, maintenance, HSE and Corporate communication. What is at stake is not only the mechanical condition of the facility, its reliable operation and the fulfillment of its delivery obligations, but also, in case of any incident affecting the public and the environment, the image, reputation and business of the operator and his stakeholders.

What are the key benefits?
Bureau Veritas has been involved since its inception in the conformity assessment, the certification of facilities and organizations and has developed a vast experience in the field of Risk Assessment, Quality, Safety, Environment Protection and Regulatory compliance. Based on this expertise,
Bureau Veritas has developed a practical approach to Pipeline Integrity Management, providing guidelines and methodologies for operators.
Bureau Veritas expertise will assist pipeline operators in designing Pipeline Integrity Management systems which comply with the latest regulations and standards, such as ASME B31.8S or API 1160. As a matter of fact, the implementation of a PIMS is much more than the installation of a new software or database: it embraces the operator management structure and work processes, and provides a new approach to Risk Management.

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS ?

- Bureau Veritas brings a wealth of experience in many integrity management related fields such as QHSE, System certification, Risk Assessment, Fitness-For-Service evaluation, Risk Based Inspection.
- The association of Bureau Veritas with N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and ATP brings together all the skills, expertise, operational support and local presence necessary to offer our clients the best PIMS available on the market.

RELATED SERVICES

- In-Service Inspection
- Fitness-For-Service (FFS) assessment
- Certification of management systems (Quality, Safety, Environment)
- Risk-Based Inspection
- Design review and Certification of assets
- Technical audits
- Data management
- Training

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OUR APPROACH

Bureau Veritas has a performance-based and risk-based approach to Pipeline Integrity Management. The approach includes: assessment of the condition of facilities (through audits and inspections); performing risk analysis and engineering criticality assessments; drawing up the priority list for further inspections, interventions, repairs and maintenance; assisting and advising in the selection of the appropriate methodologies and tools; controlling the execution of such in-line inspections, cathodic protection surveys, safety systems upgrades, maintenance and repair works.

In order to complete our portfolio of PIMS services to pipeline operators, Bureau Veritas has signed a partnership agreement in April 2006 with Gasunie Engineering & Technology (GET), a division of N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie, one of Europe's leading gas infrastructure companies, and Associated Technology Pipeline Limited (ATP), a specialized IT developer. The scope of this worldwide agreement is to market and implement Pipeline Integrity Management, particularly for gas transmission pipelines, using the PIMSlider system.

PIMSlider is a software package designed to enhance pipeline operators' ability to assess the integrity of their pipelines. Developed initially by ATP, PIMSlider was selected by Gasunie after a competitive tender as their tool to manage the integrity of their entire gas transmission grid. The Netherlands gas grid represents 12,000 km of pipelines in a densely populated country which is well known for its sensitivity to safety and environmental protection issues.

FAQ

What are the specific issues related to pipelines in terms of asset integrity management?
Pipelines are assets transporting hazardous products under pressure across public property. As such, they expose people, communities and the environment to risks in case of failure and loss of containment. On the other hand, pipelines are themselves exposed to external damages caused by third parties and in many cases, such external damages are the main cause for pipeline failure. The proper management of this interaction with the public is of paramount importance and requires an integrated and efficient integrity management system.

Is PIMSlider compatible with existing GIS (Geographical Information System) and management systems already operated by the pipeline operators?
PIMSlider is designed to interface with the GIS (ESRI, Bentley, InterGraph, etc) and management systems (SAP, Maximo, etc) commonly used by pipeline operators. PIMSlider can also come with its own GIS solution. The system is modular and is tailor-made to the exact needs of each pipeline operator.

CASE STUDY

Bureau Veritas has taken an active role in the complete reassessment of the Asset Integrity Management of the Total UK North Sea assets, including offshore platforms and pipelines, onshore terminals and pipelines.

Gasunie has implemented with ATP a complete PIMS based on the PIMSlider software for the SASOL GAS grid (1800km across South Africa and Mozambique) and Geoplin (960km of pipelines in Slovenia).

CONTACT

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