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Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

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SW Region Update for 2009

**Pipeline Safety Seminar
New Orleans, LA
July 6-10, 2009**

**Presented by Patrick Gaume, P.E.
State Liaison
Southwest Region**



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Outline

- **Mission Statement**
- **List of focus areas**
- **Item-by-Item Description**
- **Bonus Information**



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OPS Mission Statement

“To ensure the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the Nation’s pipeline transportation system.”



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SW Region

Focus areas for 2009

Presented by Patrick Gaume, P.E.
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Focus Areas

- 1. Inspection Focus**
- 2. Training Focus**
- 3. Research Focus**
- 4. New Regulations**



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1. Inspection Focus

- **Inspectors will focus in four areas.**
 - **Construction Inspections**
 - **Integrated Inspections**
 - **Accident Inspections**
 - **Standard Inspections**



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Construction Inspections

- **Most construction projects are assigned to a team of Inspectors.**
- **Each project is to be inspected multiple times.**
- **Most inspections will be timed to observe High Priority activities.**
- **Currently have two LNG projects**
- **Currently have four 80% SMYS pipeline projects**



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Integrated Inspections

- **Risk focused data driven inspection.**
- **Will include Corporate & Field inspections**
- **Is a module based inspection**
- **Modules are selected based on risk ranking**
- **Module contents come from Standard, OQ, & IMP inspection forms, and other sources.**



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Accident Inspections

- **Attention will continue to be given to accidents – more extensive reviews & will include review of more minor accidents.**
- **QUESTION: Why so many accidents with no code violations?**
- **Greater attention given to all accidents**
- **More attention on the accident reports**



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Accident Inspections

- **Awareness – pursue both root cause analysis and code violations**
- **Additional Staff has been dedicated to accidents**



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Standard Inspections

- **Continues to include an OQ Protocol 9 in 2009**



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2. Training Focus

- **Root Cause Incident Investigation Course.**
- **Inspector Team Building Workshop.**



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Root Cause Incident Investigation Course

- By the end of 2009, almost all Federal Inspectors will have been trained in Root Cause Analysis.



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Inspector Team Building Workshop

- By the end of 2009 almost all Federal Inspectors will have been trained in how to work within a team assignment.
- Will have applicability in incident/accident investigations and in team inspections.



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3. Research Focus

- **Ethanol/Biofuels transport by pipeline**
- **Internal Corrosion in Hazardous Liquid Pipelines**
- **mechanical coupling issues and gas riser pipe failures**
- **hydrogen embrittlement, flexible gas tubing, and polyethylene service side taps.**



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Ethanol/Biofuels transport

- transportation challenges posed by growing demand for ethanol and other biofuels and biofuel blends
- sponsoring research and development, resolving technical issues, and, if necessary, clarifying safety standards.



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Ethanol/Biofuels transport

- unresolved technical and operational issues
- These include metallurgical issues, such as internal corrosion and stress corrosion cracking, and operational issues, including the performance of seals, gaskets and internal coatings.
- measures needed to remove or control moisture
- preparatory cleaning to remove built up lacquers, gums, and deposits



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Ethanol/Biofuels transport

- Issues include water pick-up, phase separation, material effects, solvent effects, the use of drag reducing agents, transmix injection and processing
- educating first responders in fighting ethanol fires
- Because of ethanol's characteristics, specific emergency response measures must be taken by pipeline operators and first responders in the event of a release, including the use of appropriate extinguishing agents



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Internal Corrosion in Hazardous Liquid Pipelines

- **Required by the PIPES act of 2006**
- **to review the internal corrosion control regulations and determine if the regulations are currently adequate to ensure that the pipeline facilities subject to the regulations will not present a hazard to public safety or the environment.**



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mechanical coupling issues

- **mechanical coupling issues and gas riser pipe failures**
- **Is a focus area of the NTSB**



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hydrogen embrittlement, etc

- **hydrogen embrittlement, flexible gas tubing, and polyethylene service side taps.**



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4. New Regulations

- **Drug Testing**
- **Control Room Management**
- **API Specification 5L and API 1104**
- **DIMP Rule**



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Drug Testing

- **The minimum random drug testing rate for covered employees will remain at 25 percent during the calendar year 2009.**



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Control Room Management

- **§192.631 Control Room Management; NPRM published Sep 08. OPS continues to participate in a national consensus standard development effort. Next: Final Rule Summer 2009.**



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API Specification 5L and API 1104

- **As of 4/14/09, The most recent editions are allowed. The editions incorporated by reference are also allowed. An Operator must declare which edition is to be used on a project. The Operator must comply with the edition chosen.**



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DIMP Rule

- **Operators need to comply with the implementation of the upcoming final DIMP rule. This will include the seven required elements, installation of excess flow valves, leak management, alternate time frames for regulations and other items in the DIMP rule.**



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Bonus Information

**The best place to get most recent 49 CFR
Parts 190 – 199 and 49 CFR Part 40 (Alcohol
& Drug Abuse Regulations) is**

<http://ops.dot.gov/training/index.htm>

- **click on “Regulatory Information”**
- **click on the part you want**



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**Questions ???
Thank You!!**

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