



2024 RRC Regulatory Conference Session Descriptions

Accelerating Natural Gas Leak Detection Solutions for Belowground Pipeline Leaks Through Transparent & Rigorous Scientific Validation

Kathleen Smits

This session identifies how environmental conditions such as soil type and moisture, competing utilities, ground surface cover and atmospheric conditions impact below ground natural gas transport, and hence leak detection success. Through a 3-year experimental and numerical study, findings provide insight into the optimization of first responder and leak survey practice to maximize detection success for belowground NG pipeline leaks.

Breakout Tank Issues

John Jacobi

Breakout tank means a tank used to (a) relieve surges in a hazardous liquid pipeline system or (b) receive and store hazardous liquid transported by a pipeline for reinjection and continued transportation by pipeline. Sounds simple. It is NOT SIMPLE!! This session will address the jurisdiction of both breakout tanks and pipelines connected to breakout tanks, the regulations applicable to breakout tanks, the inspection of breakout tanks (including API 653 as well as cathodic protection of tank bottoms), PHMSA breakout tank inspection protocols, and PHMSA enforcement actions related to breakout tanks.

Critical Infrastructure Division Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Requirements & Filing

Nicole Moore

This presentation will provide guidance on filing an EOP with the RRC's Critical Infrastructure Division (CID) and cover the EOP requirements set forth in the Texas Utilities Code § 186.008.

Completions: Do You Know How and When to File?

Trisha Fleming, Miriam Borrego

This session will cover the filing of a completion packet (Forms W-2/G-1, along with any other required forms) using the RRC Online System.

Distribution Integrity Management Overview

Sean Dyer

This session provides information on how a pipeline inspector schedules, conducts and completes a Distribution Integrity Management inspection.

Drug and Alcohol Program Inspection Basics

Charles Laithbridge

This session provides information on how on how a pipeline inspector schedules, conducts, and completes a Drug and Alcohol Program inspection.

Environmental Permits and Support Unit's Compliance Section: Looking at Our First Year

Samantha Raiford, Cassandra Quiroz

This session is designed to help operators and facilities maintain compliance. Using what RRC has learned from the first year of the EPS Compliance Section, we will review the essential elements of quarterly reports and discuss common issues seen during inspections and site visits. In addition, we will explore the process of Notices of Violations and Requests for Additional Data as well as look at the Quarterly Report template that is available online.

Filing New Pipeline Construction Reports

Steven Rios

Learn how and when to file Form PS-48 (New Construction Report) when constructing new pipelines.

Form CI-D Online Filing

Nicolas Stasulli

This presentation will provide guidance on filing the Form CI-D, Acknowledgement of Critical Customer/Critical Gas Supplier Designation, discuss 16 Texas Administrative Code §3.65 (regarding which facilities are required to file), provide instructions for filing using the RRC Online System as well as what actions are necessary following a filing.

Form CI-X Online Filing

Raquel Foti

This presentation will provide guidance on filing the Form CI-X, Critical Designation Exception Application, discuss 16 Texas Administrative Code §3.65 (regarding which facilities are required to file), cover the requirements for applying for a Form CI-X, and provide instructions for filing using the RRC Online System.

Form P-16: An Advanced Discussion

David King

The Form W-1 and Form P-16: Eliminating Mistakes for Successful Filing session covers an overview of the Form P-16. This session, however, will be a more direct conversation of the Form P-16 and will dive deeper into the form, and cover how the form is used with the more complicated well developments.

Form W-1 and Form P-16: Eliminating Mistakes for Successful Filing

David King

This discussion will provide information on how to properly fill out Form W-1 using the RRC Online System. Focuses will be on form and rule requirements, common problems encountered, and a summary of system updates from the past three years. We will also be discussing use of the Form P-16 for various types of W-1 submissions, and how to accurately enter data on the form.

Form W-1: Statewide Rule 40 Section

David King

This discussion will provide filers an understanding of the optional Statewide Rule 40 section on the Form W-1 (Application for Permit to Drill, Recomplete or Re-Enter), if choosing to claim a horizontal division of ownership. The discussion will also include a focus on data entry for the P-16, requirements of the SWR 40 notice, and when double assignment of acreage occurs versus when it does not.

Gas Gathering Pipelines

Chris McLaren

This session will discuss the implementation of the 2022 PHMSA Rule on Type C and R Gas Gathering Pipelines including the identification of start and end points of gas gathering pipelines, frequently asked questions, and reporting requirements. With the initiation of inspections in 2024, findings of those will be reviewed and trends from submitted annual report data will be discussed.

H2S Safety Training

Travis Baer, Tom Fouts

This session will provide a basic overview of Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) including details on where it is located, effects it has on people and emergency response and rescue procedures.

How to Avoid Monthly Production Reporting Correction Letters

Erin Hehnly

This session will provide guidance on filing the Monthly Production Report (Form PR) and highlight the top filing issues.

How to File a Form P-17(A): Commingling

Kaitlyn Cunningham

This session will discuss the purpose of a commingle permit, provide an overview on how to file the Forms P-17 and P-17A, identify the differences between the two forms, and discuss common errors found on the forms.

How to Request a Groundwater Protection Determination Letter

James Harcourt, Valerie Atkins

Learn why a Groundwater Protection Determination Letter is needed and how to request one by filing the Form GW-1 online or hardcopy.

How to Submit a Plan of Correction Including the RAMP Process

Nicholas Owojori

This session trains pipeline operators how to submit a Plan of Correction (POC) online using the Pipeline Inspection Permitting Evaluation System (PIPES) and provides an overview of the RRC Access Management Process (RAMP).

Introduction to Control Room Management

Mark Herrin

Session provides a basic overview on how a pipeline inspector schedules, conducts, and completes a Control Room Management Program inspection.

Introduction to Federal Regulations and CFR 49 Part 192

Bryan Kichler

The session will introduce federal regulations including how they are structured and managed. It will explain retroactive subparts and how to navigate the federal code.

Introduction to Liquid Pipelines

Ron Perez

In this session pipeline operators will learn what is a regulated Hazardous Liquid pipeline and the compliance requirements for the various types.

Introducing RRC LoneSTAR and Forms P-5, W-3C & W-3X Online Filing

Jennifer Gilmore

The RRC has embarked on its largest information technology project in agency history with the creation of the RRC State Tracking and Reporting system, or LoneSTAR. This online application will allow users to make online filings and view records and track various RRC regulatory functions. The first LoneSTAR release includes the processes for filing the Form P-5, *Organization Report*, required to become, or renew as, an oil or gas operator or pipeline operator under the jurisdiction of the RRC. Also included in the first release are forms related to Statewide Rule 15 requirements: Form W-3C, *Certification of Surface Equipment Removal for an Inactive Well*, and Form W-3X, *Application for an Extension of Deadline for Plugging an Inactive Well*, and the ability for operators to request a release on their financial assurance documents.

Introduction to NTSB Investigations

Sean Lynum

Brief discussion on mission and purpose of the National Transportation Safety Board, board make-up and what to expect on-scene when a pipeline investigation is initiated.

Introduction to Operator Qualification Inspections

Kevin Colteryahn

In this session pipeline operators will learn how an inspector schedules, conducts, and completes Operator Qualification Program inspections.

Introduction to Public Awareness and Damage Prevention Inspections

Cesar Salinas

In this session pipeline operators will learn how an inspector schedules, conducts, and completes a Public Awareness and Damage Prevention Program inspection.

Introduction to the Form H-10

Margot Buyens

How to correctly file the Form H-10, Annual Disposal / Injection Well Monitoring Report, and address violations.

Introduction to the Form H-5

Aaron LeJeune

Learn everything you need to know to file the Form H-5, Mechanical Integrity Test Reports.

Introduction to Underground Injection Control Completions

Thanh Ngyuen

An introductory course on Underground Injection Control (UIC) Completions, including terminology, best practices, and examples of when and how to file.

Liquified Natural Gas Inspection Overview

Priscilla Sterling

Session provides information on how a pipeline inspector schedules, conducts, and completes a Liquefied Natural Gas inspection.

Mastering Well Compliance and Website Queries

Trisha Fleming

This session is intended to provide an overview of the RRC website focusing on regulatory compliance by demonstrating the tools available to users. In addition, a review of the RRC's Online Research Queries will be demonstrated to show data available on the RRC website. Topics to be discussed include oil and gas well supplements, proration schedules, and online research queries associated with the RRC's Well Compliance section.

New Construction Inspection Basics

Michael Nuernberg

Session provides information on how a pipeline inspector schedules, conducts, and completes a New Construction inspection.

Operations and Maintenance Program Inspection Basics

Alberto Hernandez

Session provides information on how a pipeline inspector schedules, conducts, and completes an Operations and Maintenance Program inspection.

Operator Qualifications as it Relates to Incident and Accident Investigations

Warren Miller

This session will provide a medium dive into what additional elements an operator should consider when performing their investigations and actions that may have to be taken.

Overview of the Leak and Distribution NPRMs

Bryan Kichler

This presentation will provide an overview of the Leak Mitigation and Distribution Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for distribution and transmission operators.

PHMSA Accident Investigation Division (AID)

Chris Ruhl

PHMSA AID will provide attendees with insight into what type of information their investigators are searching for on an incident or accident. National Data from the last year will also reveal the type of issues operators are experiencing and items to consider on their own pipeline systems.

PHMSA Enforcement History 2020-2023

Karl Leger, John Jacobi

This presentation will review the PHMSA Enforcement History for CY 2020 through CY 2023. Enforcement penalties and actions will be ranked and reviewed by regulatory code section for the largest civil penalties imposed during the years covered. This presentation is dedicated to developing additional insight into potential regulatory deficiencies and practical operations and maintenance solutions to enhance pipeline integrity and safety while reducing regulatory non-compliance exposure.

PHMSA Engineering and Research Development Initiatives

Mary McDaniel

This presentation will help you understand more about PHMSA's Research and Development Projects, and trends in notifications, state waivers and special permits. It will also provide information regarding PHMSA and state oversight of LNG facilities as well as Hydrogen and Carbon Dioxide initiatives.

PHMSA/RRC Jurisdiction Within Facilities and Integrity Management Requirements

Karl Leger, John Jacobi

This presentation will cover the importance of performing a multi-agency jurisdictional determination (PHMSA, RRC, USCG, etc.) to ensure that the operator has a complete understanding of each regulatory agency's jurisdictional start and stop points in facilities, on pipelines, and in tank batteries.

PHMSA Headquarters Updates

Alanna Herron

Alanna Herron, Senior Technical Advisor for Pipeline Safety, will share information about changes to PHMSA that will affect how PHMSA conducts inspections and what the attendees should expect during a PHMSA inspection.

Pipeline Damage Prevention Q&A

Ricardo Gamez

This session dives into pipeline damage reporting, unveils statistics and trends, and welcomes your questions.

Pipeline Incidents and Accidents

Jennifer De La Cruz

This informative session details how RRC's Pipeline Safety inspects incidents and accidents.

Pipeline Inspection Permitting Evaluation System (PIPES) Updates

Pete Longoria

This presentation provides updates on new processes within PIPES and train pipeline operators new to PIPES.

Pipeline Permitting and Mapping Improvements and Updates

Andy Martinec, Casey Proulx

Learn recent improvements and updates to pipeline permit application documents, shapefile requirements, and more.

Pipeline Safety Violation Trends

Jonathan Saucedo

This session will highlight Texas' top 2023 pipeline safety violations and provide best practices on how to address them moving forward.

Pipeline Standard Comprehensive Inspections

Carlos Jaime

Pipeline operators can gain insight on how to prepare for standard comprehensive inspections, including the procedure for conduction inspections.

Regulation of Disposal Wells in Seismically Active Areas in Texas

Jeremy Potter, Jim Moore

This presentation will provide an overview of the RRC's regulation of saltwater disposal wells and induced seismicity, including the regulatory framework, permitting requirements and process, and agency response actions.

Reporting Requirements During Weather Emergencies

Andrea Meyer, Amanda Cupp, Jarrod Eberly, Jim Collins

In this session we will be going over what is a reportable stoppage, the differences between reportable stoppages and how to report them accordingly, and how a reportable stoppage inspection will be conducted.

Review of Class Location and Moderate Consequence Areas

Bryan Kichler

This session will discuss what class locations and moderate consequence areas are and how these areas are identified. It will also look at common errors found in identifying these locations.

Risk Management and Barriers to Pipeline Failures

Mike LaMont

Risk Management based pipeline safety regulations provide pipeline operators with a mandated mechanism to prevent and mitigate pipeline failures. By determining your highest overall risk pipelines and identifying specific risk drivers for pipeline segments, pipeline failures are prevented through the application of integrity assessments and preventive and mitigative measures. However, the recent flurry of regulatory changes along with other factors may undermine risk management programs along with pipeline safety. This Session explores and acknowledges the realities of today's challenging environment and provides considerations for continued improvements to pipeline safety.

RRC Pipeline Safety Updates

Stephanie Weidman

This presentation will provide an overview of changes to the federal and state Pipeline Safety Laws and operational changes to the RRC's Oversight and Safety Division since the last conference.

Severance Tax Responsibilities

James Harcourt, Valerie Atkins

This session will provide an overview of Statewide Rules 101 and 103, Severance Tax criteria, the application process, and forms.

Statewide Rule 32: Exception to Flaring/Venting of Produced Gas

Atia Rahman

This session provides an overview of the requirements of Statewide Rule 32 regarding the venting/flaring of produced gas. Discussion topics will include authorized flaring/venting and exemptions to the rule, as well as exceptions to the rule. The online filing system will also be discussed.

Statewide Rules 37 and 38: Identifying and Resolving Exceptions on the Form W-1

David King

This discussion will provide information on how to properly fill out Form W-1 using the RRC Online System. Focuses will be on form and rule requirements, common problems encountered, and a summary of system updates from the past three years. We will also be discussing use of the Form P-16 for various types of W-1 submissions, and how to accurately enter data on the form.

Summary of a Pipeline Integrity Management Inspection

Joshua Snowdy, William Dean

In this session pipeline operators will learn how an inspector schedules, conducts, and completes an Integrity Management inspection.

The Application of ILI in Pipeline Integrity

Kevin Garrity, Connor Varney

This session explores the threats to pipeline integrity assessed using In-Line Inspection (ILI) tools. Presentation covers regulations, and analyzes various ILI technologies (e.g., Magnetic Flux Leakage, Ultrasonic) with their advantages and limitations. We'll address key factors for tool selection and troubleshoot common operational challenges. Finally, we'll explore how to leverage ILI data alongside Engineering Critical Assessments (ECA) for optimal pipeline management.

The Science of the Form P-18: Successfully Filing a Skim Oil/Condensate Report

Ian Loyd

In this session we will discuss the purpose of the skim oil/condensate report, provide an overview of the Form P-18, and talk in-depth about the common errors/mistakes found on Form P-18 submissions.

Underground Injection Control Compliance Q&A

Margot Buyens, Aaron LeJeune

A question-and-answer session for advanced UIC topics not covered in the introductory series. Bring your questions about Mechanical Integrity Tests (Form H-5), Disposal/Injection Well Reports (Form H-10), and UIC Completion reports. A panel of subject-matter experts will be available to answer questions and do demonstrations related to compliance for injection/disposal wells.

Underground Natural Gas Storage Facilities

Mark Lay, Justin Markham

Overview of the RRC's Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility Program.

Understanding Statewide Rule 86 and Off-Lease Bottom Hole Exception

Thu-Ha Ngyuen

This session will cover off-lease Bottom Hole (BHL) overview including situations where an administrative exception may or may be granted, the requirements for filing a Statewide Rule 86(d)(6) exception and approval criteria.

What Has Congress Done to Us Now?

DeWitt Burdeaux

This session will cover requirements imposed by Congress in the latest Pipeline Safety Reauthorization Act placed on PHMSA to develop rulemaking or to undertake required studies which could lead to regulatory actions in the future.

What's New in Environmental Permitting

Christine Peters, Misti Kinnison

Join this session to hear about the newest LoneSTAR release for Waste Hauler permits, future releases and changes to the Waste Hauler permitting program. Also, hear about how the RRC is actively permitting pilot projects that recycle produced water via land application and rule amendments to Statewide Rule 8 (relating to Water Protection) into Chapter 4, Subchapter A (relating to Oil and Gas Management).

Who, What, When, Why, and How of Pipeline Safety Management Systems (PSMS)

Geoff Isbell

This presentation introduces Pipeline Safety Management Systems (PSMS), covering its definition and ten key elements. It emphasizes the urgency for operators to adopt PSMS proactively for its benefits, discusses contractor involvement, and the necessity of cooperation between operators and contractors. The session concludes with guidance on initiating PSMS, particularly for smaller operators.