Pipeline Research Council International, Inc.

PRCI Technology Development Center

Introduction to PRCI and Research Program Update

Hans Deeb
Manager, Facility Operations & Business Development

EPA Natural Gas STAR PRCI Tour
October 24, 2017
Introduction to PRCI
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PRCI Mission

To be the global leader in collaborative energy pipeline research that provides safe, reliable, environmentally conscious and efficient means of delivery.

Note: Mission Statement being evaluated during PRCI Strategic Planning in 2017
PRCI Membership

- **33 Energy Pipeline Operating Companies**
  - 18 Natural Gas Transmission; 9 Liquid
  - 6 Liquid/Natural Gas

- **3 Pipeline Industry Organization (PIO) Members**
  - Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL)
  - Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
  - Operations Technology Development (OTD)

- **35 Associate Members & Technical Program Associate Members**
  - Australia, Canada, China, Europe, Japan, Mexico, U.S.
  - Special Membership – Australian Pipeline & Gas Association (APGA)

- **Worldwide Research Organization**
  - 41 U.S. Companies
  - 31 Non-U.S. (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Europe, Japan, Mexico)
Current Operator Membership

**Natural Gas**
- Alliance
- ATCO
- Boardwalk
- Columbia
- Dominion
- Energy Transfer
- ENGIE
- Gassco
- Gasunie
- Kinder Morgan
- National Fuel
- National Grid
- OTD
- PG&E
- SoCalGas
- Spectra
- Total
- TransGas
- Williams

**Liquid**
- AOPL
- Buckeye
- Chevron
- Colonial
- ExxonMobil
- Koch
- Marathon
- Phillips 66
- Plains
- Shell

**Combo**
- ConocoPhillips
- Enbridge
- Enterprise
- Petrobras
- PetroChina
- TransCanada

**Mileage by Operations**
- **Gas**: 218,011,53%
- **Liquid**: 124,340,30%
- **Combo**: 72,045,17%

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PRCI Research Implementation

- **Technical Committees (7)**
  - Four addressing Pipeline issues & Three addressing Facilities issues
  - Each operates under a Executive Assembly-approved charter
  - Develop & maintain roadmaps to achieve PRCI research objectives
  - Provide essential peer review of research results
  - Provide oversight & continuity of, and among, projects under the TC

- **Project Teams & Area Leaders**
  - Comprised of voting members from funding companies
    - *Hold the decision-making authority on each project*
    - *Approve research results on behalf of their companies & PRCI*
  - Larger projects usually led by 3-5 person core management group
  - Emphasis Areas led by Vice Chairs or Interest/Emphasis Area Leader(s)
  - Any PRCI member company can participate on the team
  - This is where the core mission is executed
Pipeline Technical Committees & Focus

- **Design, Materials & Construction**
  - Assessment & Repair
  - Construction
  - Design
  - Fracture
  - Geohazard Management (Overlap with SO&M)
  - Materials
  - Welding & Weld Inspection
  - Structural Integrity Assessment

- **Corrosion**
  - Detection, Assessment, Prevention, & Management of Galvanic Corrosion & SCC; Coatings
  - Improvement & Enhancement of Cathodic Protection; Design & Operations
  - Quantitative Risk Assessment
Pipeline Technical Committees & Focus

- **Integrity & Inspection**
  - NDE Technology Development & Inspection Methods
  - Mechanical Damage
  - Pipeline Integrity
  - Subsea (Overlap with DMC)

- **Surveillance, Operations & Monitoring**
  - Threat Analysis & Damage Prevention
  - ROW Management – Environmental & Third-party Interference
  - ROW Protection & Monitoring
  - Leak Detection (liquids)
Facilities Technical Committees & Focus

- **Compressor & Pump Station**
  - Cost-effective Emissions Reduction and Emissions Monitoring (Overlap with SOM)
  - All Equipment in Stations – Engines, Turbines & Drives
  - Equipment Reliability, Availability & Life Extension
  - Improve Fuel Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigation & Reporting

- **Measurement**
  - Improve Custody Transfer Accuracy and Reduce Metering Errors and Bias
  - Support the Technical Underpinnings of Measurement Standards
  - Reduce Lost & Unaccounted For Gas and Reduce Measurement O&M Expenses
  - Expand the Operating Range ofExisting Equipment

- **Underground Storage**
  - Storage Reservoirs, Bedded Salt Structures & Salt Caverns
  - Wellbore and Cavern Integrity and Inspection
  - Field Deliverability and Facility Integrity & Reliability
Technology Development Center - TDC
TDC Existing Capabilities

- **Services available to PRCI members and nonmembers**
  - Pull test facility for In-line Inspection tools
    - 24”, 16”, 12” & 8” pipe strings containing hundreds of fully characterized real & manufactured defects.
    - Main winch is capable of running consistent velocities from 1 mph to 11 mph while pulling over 5,000 lbs.
  - Liquid loop test facility
    - 12” & 6” nominal pipe utilizing water as the liquid medium
    - Variety of configurations ranging from easily piggable to "difficult to inspect"
    - Design incorporates the ability for continuous test cycles at a pressure of ANSI Class 150 (285 psi)
Services available to PRCI members and nonmembers

- Large inventory of pipe Samples with real-world and manufactured defects
- Qualification testing of NDE professionals and tools
- Technology demonstrations
- Warehouse space for conducting research and storing pipe samples sensitive to the elements
- State-of-the-art meeting space with conferencing capabilities
Pull Test Strings

Liquid Test Loop

Pipe Warehouse & Testing Space
Pipe Sample Inventory at TDC

- 1,158 total pipe samples; pipe size range from 2” to 52”
Stress Corrosion Cracking

External Corrosion

Dents & Gouges
How to get Involved

Visit www.prci.org (or TDC@PRCI.ORG)

Click on “TDC” tab at top of page

Click on “Services” button

Under “ACTIONS”, click on “Request a Service”
Greenhouse Gas Related Research
PRCI Technical Committees

Pipeline TCs
- Inspection & Integrity
- Surveillance, Operations & Monitoring
- Corrosion
- Design, Materials & Construction
- Compressor & Pump Stations

Facilities
- Measurement
- Underground Storage
Compressor & Pump Stations
Objectives

- Quantifying and develop efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with natural gas transmission
  - Methane emissions
  - Carbon dioxide emissions
- Optimizing efforts to return the highest reductions
  - Understanding the most frequent/larges sources
- Affected equipment
  - Pipeline and compressors
    - Blowdowns
    - Leaks
  - Combustion related
    - Compressor engines
    - Auxiliary generators
    - Boilers
Completed work

- **Multiple efforts associated with leak detection**
  - Ambient sensors development
  - Optical detector development
  - Acoustic measurements

- **Enhancing equipment efficiency**
  - Enhanced power cylinder mixing
  - Ultra high energy ignition methods including screw-in pre-chambers
  - Real-time methods to detect declining equipment performance
  - Improved pump efficiency

- **Alternate equipment designs to reduce methane emissions**
  - Low-bleed pneumatic controllers and alternative to eliminate natural gas pneumatics
  - Evaluation of real-time detection methods for packing leaks
Completed Work

- **Minimizing blowdowns**
  - Developing meter cleaning methods that can be performed without blowdown
  - Capture and recovery method evaluations
  - Methods to reduce the carbon footprint of pipeline compressor and pump stations

- **Preventing leaks**
  - Alternatives for leak detection after hydrotesting
  - Reducing corrosion and associated factors
  - Pipeline threat detection to minimize 3rd party damage

- **Waste energy capture assessments**
  - Exhaust heat recovery
  - Engine cooling heat recovery
  - Pressure recovery
Ongoing work

- **Emissions inventory**
  - Reviewing reported emissions data to
    - *Better understand the total emissions by the industry*
    - *Understand the largest sources and highest contributors to emissions*
      - Some leak detection and repair requirements appear to cause more GHG emissions than they save
        - *Emissions from the blowdowns are higher than the leak*
      - Optimize repairs

- **Emissions avoidance**
  - Multiple projects associated with reducing 3rd party damage and corrosion
  - Enhancing dry gas seal reliably
  - Evaluation of capture/combustion of compressor rod packing emissions
  - Evaluation of gas composition analysis techniques that can be performed at line conditions (no gas extraction)
Dry gas seals

- Dry gas seals are the preferred options under Subpart OOOO
- Dry gas seals are not as reliable as wet gas seals in dirty/wet gas applications
  - May result in increased GHG emissions resulting from dry gas seal failures and blowdowns required for the associated repairs
- A long term research effort in coordination with the Gas Machinery Research Council is evaluating alternative designs/operating practices to enhance dry gas seal reliability in dirty/wet conditions
Surveillance, Operations & Monitoring
On-going Work

Methane Detector UAS – Phase 2/3 Underway

• Phase 4 approved for 2017/2018

Objective: Phased development of a methane detector for handheld and UAS platforms (VTOL & fixed-wing) to include ethane for biogenic differentiation

• The sniffer optical head is an open-path, multi-pass tunable laser spectrometer and plots all data atop a 2D map in real-time on a tablet
On-going Work

: Methane Detector UAS – Phase 2/3 Underway Cont.

- **Status & Expected Completion Dates:**
  - Handheld platform system validated and completed for methane (ethane TBD Phase 3)
  - Finalization of UAS system modification and flight validation underway and to be completed by end of 2016
  - Phases 3 & 4 - Modification to Handheld & UAS systems to include ethane detection started and to be completed by end of 2017
Demonstration of the Use of Long Endurance Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) to Conduct Machinery Threat Detection and Oil Spill Detection on a Pipeline Corridor in the National Airspace System

- **Objective**: Demonstrate the operation of long endurance fixed-wing UAS to conduct pipeline patrols. Evaluate the performance differences between manned & unmanned aircraft BVLOS

- **Status**:
  - Flight campaigns completed in partnership with the MAAP VaTech FAA Center of Excellence
  - Final Report being finalized

- **Expected Completion Date**: November 2017
Evaluation of Current ROW Threat Monitoring, Applications and Analysis Technology

- **Objective:** Determining which ROW monitoring systems are best suited to specific information requirements of the pipeline sector, and determining which systems add value to the existing monitoring approaches. This project should provide an understanding of those information requirements that need to be acquired to drive threat reduction.

- **Status:** New

- **Expected Completion Date:** December 2017