



Safety @ the Top



Volume 2, Issue 1
26 September 09

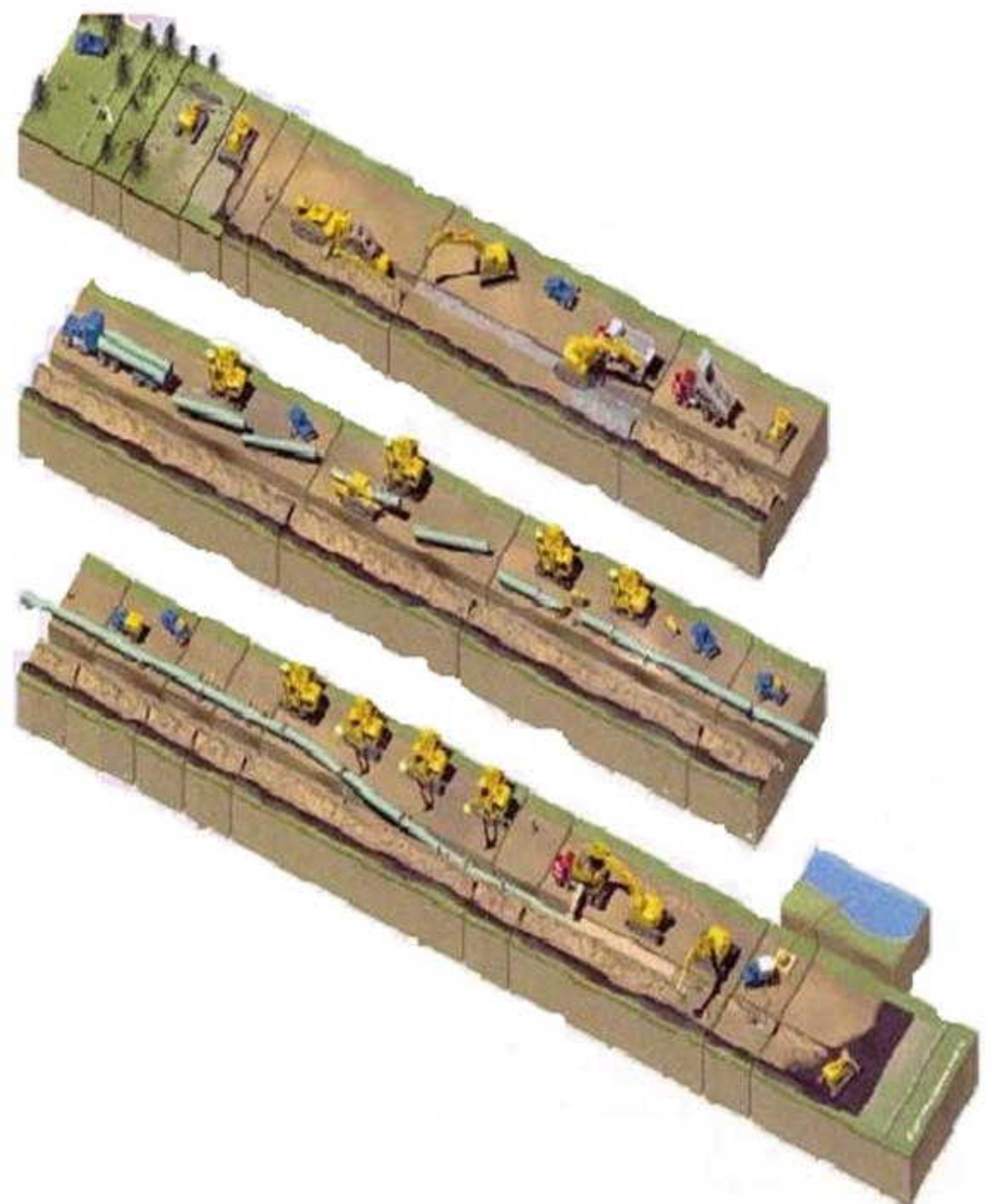
PSSP-MER Official Newsletter

Seminar on Pipelines Safety

PSSP-MER got another milestone in achieving its goal in promoting continuing education and enhancement of knowledge and skills of the members. Surprisingly, more than 240 participants attended the presentation concerning “**Safety on Pipeline Construction, From Start to Finish**” presented on October 30, 2009 @ Dhahran Palace Hotel, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Engr. Levi S. Alejo, the technical speaker showcased the overview on various inter-connected activities when starting all the way to the completion of pipeline construction works.

Engr. Alejo who is a registered safety practitioner under DOLE-BWC and active on his safety profession for almost 24 years in Saudi Arabia gave emphasis in the importance of recognizing the hazards involved in each phase of work and he highlighted the necessary control measures that need to be implemented in accordance with safety standards and procedures. He clearly defined that in the following activities there is a need for proper planning in consideration for SAFETY, and this is required to complete the pipeline construction successfully:

- + SURVEYING
- + MAPPING & MATERIALS DELIVERY
- + DIGGING THE TRENCH
- + HAULING & STRINGING
- + PIPE-BENDING
- + WELDING (MANUAL OR SEMI-AUTOMATIC)
- + NON DESTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION (NDE),
- + ABRASIVE BLASTING & PIPE COATING (FUSION BONDED EPOXY, APCS 113A OR STOPAQ)
- + HOLIDAY DETECTION(JEEPING)
- + PIPE LOWERING
- + PIGGING, CALIPER SURVEY AND GAUGING
- + CATHODIC PROTECTION
- + HYDROTESTING
- + HOT TAPPING AND TIE-INS
- RADIOGRAPHIC TESTING (RT) OR AUTOMATIC ULTRASONIC TESTING (AUT)



Engr. Levi also presented some safety reminders to inform the participants of what to do when situated in the area wherein pipeline jobs or associated works in pipelines are being performed. Excerpted from what he lectured are:

- Be aware of trenching and shoring safety precautions
 - Don't stand near the edge of an excavation
 - Don't enter an unsafe excavation
 - Equipment vibrations can cause a cave-in
- Keep away from welding areas. Welding can cause a "flash". Welding at night near glass can reflect the same damaging radiation.
- Avoid touching the "tail" of the "jeep"
- When driving on the Right-of-Way - watch out for HEAVY EQUIPMENT!
- Keep your equipment and part of your load if any away from overhead power lines. Safe distance is 25 feet.
- Do not smoke just anywhere, use the designated smoking area.
- Keep your self away for radiation testing, hydro testing and HOT tapping areas particularly if you are not involved in that activity.
- Beware of lengths of welded pipe on skids without proper cribbing.
- Don't stand near pipe being lifted from ground.
- Don't stand near pipe truck being unloaded.
- Beware of improperly chocked pipe.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment.

Pipelines are subject to extensive regulations related to development and implementation of an Integrity Management Program (IMP). This requires detailed analysis of the current state of the pipeline system. A key analytical tool is a "smart pig", a sophisticated instrument device run through the pipeline to identify certain integrity issues that may exist in a transmission line. Smart pigs may detect corrosion, damage to the external coating that helps to prevent carrion, damage to the pipe during initial construction or as a result of damage by excavation by others. Any integrity issues are identified, evaluated and any necessary remedial actions are taken.



The delighted attendees in the packed venue also actively participated in the Q&A and in the competency test portions. The event is highly considered as a successful one for the PSSP-MER BODs and Officers, the instructor and the members. At the end of the day, the informative ideas everybody learned from the seminar will surely enhance their safety knowledge and serve as enlightenment to so many questions present before the seminar begun. If all attendees will adapt the newly cultivated safety knowledge on their current work now and/or in future jobs, it will surely lessen the occurrence of unwanted incidents in the pipeline construction industry.

So let's promote and practice **Pipeline Construction SAFETY, "From Start to Finish."**

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