Description

This procedure is used to determine the minimum clearance between existing pipe(s) and other underground structures installed by excavation, boring, or directional drilling.

Regulatory Applicability

☒ Transmission Pipelines
☒ Regulated Gathering Pipelines (Type A)
☒ Regulated Gathering Pipelines (Type B)[1]
☒ Distribution Pipelines

Frequency

As needed

Reference

49 CFR 192.325 *Underground Clearance*
LA Title 43 Part XIII 1725 *Underground Clearance*

Forms / Record Retention

Update maps as necessary

F-192.614	*Damage Prevention / 5 Years*
F-192.709	*Repair Work Order / Life of Pipeline System*
WTG 1100	*Exposed Pipeline Inspection / 5 Years*
WTG 1101	*Leak Report Form / Life of Pipeline System*

Related Specifications

API 1104 *Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities*
ASME Boiler Pressure Vessel Code (Section 9)

OQ Covered Task

CT0861 *Installation of Steel Pipe in a Ditch*

(In order to perform the tasks listed above; personnel must be qualified in accordance with West Texas Gas's Operator Qualification program or directly supervised by a qualified individual.)

[1] If the line is new, replaced, relocated or changed.

Procedure Steps

1. Determine the method of installation for the WTG pipe or foreign structure being installed.
   a) If structures are in an open trench, go to Step 6).
   b) If foreign structure is installed by directional drilling or boring, go to Step 2).
2. Contractor is responsible to determine depth of the company pipeline at the location in question. Using methods approved by WTG:
   a) Search records and maps for pipeline information.
   b) Expose pipeline by spot excavations.
   c) Hydrovac
3. When WTG is crossing foreign facilities work with representatives of facilities to determine depth of the foreign pipeline or structure.
4. Compare depths of the two structures to determine clearance.
5. Go to Step 18).
6. Verify excavation is safe to enter.
7. Measure distance between the pipeline and the nearest foreign structure.
8. Inspect condition of exposed pipeline.
   a) If steel pipe or coating is not damaged or faulty, go to Step 13).
   b) If steel pipe or coating is damaged or faulty, go to Step 9).
   c) If plastic pipeline has been damaged, repair per O&M procedures.
9. Remove coating for pipe inspection.
10. Inspect pipe for damage.
    a) If pipe damage is not found, go to Step 13).
    b) If pipe damage is found, go to Step 11).
11. Measure damage and notify supervisor of damage and its extent.
12. Repair coating and/or pipe per WTG O&M.
13. To determine if clearance is adequate, refer to Procedure P-192.319.
14. Install Test Station as instructed by company standards for CP interference purposes.
15. Inspect support and span of exposed pipe and foreign object.
16. Ensure the support is adequate to maintain clearance during and after backfilling.
17. Secure or ensure the responsible party secures the perimeter of excavation if to be left open and unattended.

18. Approve the excavation for backfilling by notifying supervisor, local job foremen, or others as appropriate.
19. Complete exposed pipe report or other forms required by West Texas Gas O&M.

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