



Description To establish a uniform process and outline precautions for launching and receiving any type of pipeline pig.

Regulatory Applicability All aboveground pipelines or portions of a pipeline

- Transmission Pipelines
- Regulated Gathering Pipelines (Type A)
- Regulated Gathering Pipelines (Type B)
- Distribution Pipelines

Frequency Each time any pig is to be launched or received

Reference

Forms / Record Retention None

Related Specifications Pigging Procedure

OQ Covered Task 0301 Manually Opening and Closing Valves
0311 Adjust and Monitor Flow or Pressure Manual Valve Operation
1801 Purging, abandonment, or inactivation or facilities.
(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.)



Safety Precautions

Launcher and receiver safety

Any launcher or receiver used after July 1, 2021, must be equipped with a device capable of safely relieving pressure in the barrel before removal or opening of the launcher or receiver barrel closure or flange and insertion or removal of in-line inspection tools, scrapers, or spheres. An operator must use a device to either: Indicate that pressure has been relieved in the barrel; or alternatively prevent opening of the barrel closure or flange when pressurized, or insertion or removal of in-line devices (e.g. inspection tools, scrapers, or spheres), if pressure has not been relieved.

The following precautions should be taken while conducting this procedure: Safety precautions should be observed during this launching or receiving process. These precautions should include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Proper PPE.
- 2) Prohibit smoking and open flames in area.
- 3) Prohibit operation of spark producing equipment such as internal combustion engines, electric motors, switches, cell phones, or other ignition sources.
- 4) Post warning signs and/or barricade area to prevent public access.
- 5) Provide a fire extinguisher of appropriate type and size at the launching or receiving facilities.

Launching Procedure Steps

1. The pig trap valve and kicker valve must be closed.
2. Open the blowdown valve to vent pressure from the launcher. (WARNING: Do not attempt to open the end closure until the launcher is completely blown down to atmospheric pressure.)
3. Open the end closure and insert the pig until the front cup reaches the reducer and forms a tight fit against the reducer.
4. Close the end closure.
5. Open the kicker valve slightly to purge air form the launcher.
6. Close the blowdown valve and slowly bring the launcher up to line pressure.
7. Close the kicker valve. (CAUTION: Kicker valve and isolation valve will need to be opened slowly to ensure equal pressure on both sides of the pig is maintained to prevent pig moving up against isolation valve or jumping backwards into the oversize pipe.)



8. Open the pig trap valve.
9. Open the kicker valve. (NOTE: If the pig does not leave the launcher immediately, slowly close the mainline isolation valve (partially) until the pig does leave the launcher.)
10. Open the mainline isolation valve.
11. Close the kicker and pig trap valves.
12. Verify the pig has left the trap. (Repeat steps 2 – 4 to check for the pig.)

Receiving Procedure Steps

1. The blowdown valve and end closure must be closed.
2. Before the pig arrives, open the bypass and then open the pig trap valve. (NOTE: If the pig does not enter the trap, slowly close the station valve until the pig is forced into the trap.)
3. Once the pig is in the trap, open the station valve.
4. Close the pig trap valve and bypass valve.
5. Open the blowdown valve to vent pressure from the receiver. (WARNING: Do not attempt to open the end closure until the launcher is completely blown down to atmospheric pressure.)
6. Open end closure and remove pig(s). (CAUTION: Some internal pipeline residues may smolder and ignite when exposed to the atmosphere.)
7. Close end closure.
8. Open the bypass valve slightly to purge air from the barrel.
9. Close blowdown valve and slowly bring receiver up to line pressure.
10. Close bypass valve. (The bypass valve and trap may valve may be opened at this time to be ready for the next pig.)



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