



*Pipeline Research Council International, Inc.*

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# Composite Repair of Transmission Pipelines Workshop

**2020 PRCI Research Exchange**

Presented by Dr. Chris Alexander, PE | ADV Integrity, Inc.

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 | 1:00 to 2:30 PM PST



# Presentation Overview

- **Part 1:** The critical role of full-scale testing in evaluating composite repair technologies
- **Part 2:** Background on previous research and case studies
- **Part 3:** The future and advancing the state-of-the-art

# High Level Composite Repair Concepts

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- **Composite repairs systems include:**
  - E-glass or carbon fibers
  - Matrix (e.g., epoxy and urethane resins)
  - Filler (putty) materials
- **First use dates back to early 1990s**
- **Minimal debate regarding their use for corrosion and dent features**
- **Inspection of repairs is a gap**
- **Advanced applications include leak repairs and reinforcement of cracks**

# **Part 1: The critical role of full-scale testing in evaluating composite repair technologies**

# Why is testing important?

- **Managing pipelines can be very difficult**
- **Integrity engineers are required to make complex decisions with limited information**
- **Numerical modeling can be effective in predicting behavior, but oftentimes has limitations due to unknowns with material properties and defect geometries**
- **In some regards, full-scale testing is “insurance” to help us better understand potential pipe behavior**

# Testing Program Key Elements

- Ronald Reagan's **“Trust, but verify”** concept is the essence of every testing program
- Full-scale testing allows us to simulate real-world pipeline conditions and establish a true limit state condition
- The ideal scenario is one that involves both full-scale testing and numerical modeling
- Testing can be extremely difficult and requires engineers and technicians with significant experience

# Key Aspects (Equipment, 1/3)

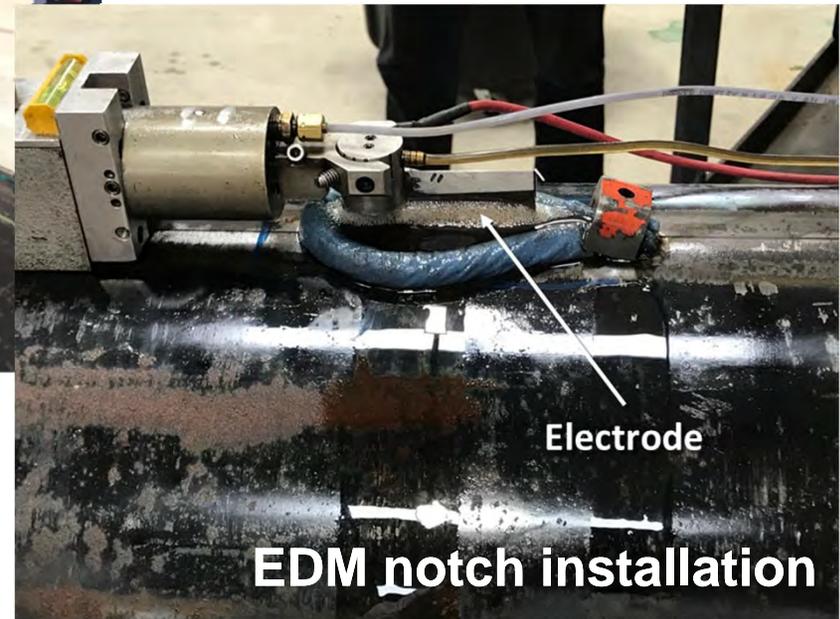


Pressure test chamber

# Key Aspects (Equipment, 2/3)



Dent installation test rig



# Key Aspects (Equipment, 3/3)

3 million ft-lb bending frame





## Cold Temperature Burst Box (-51°F / -46°C)

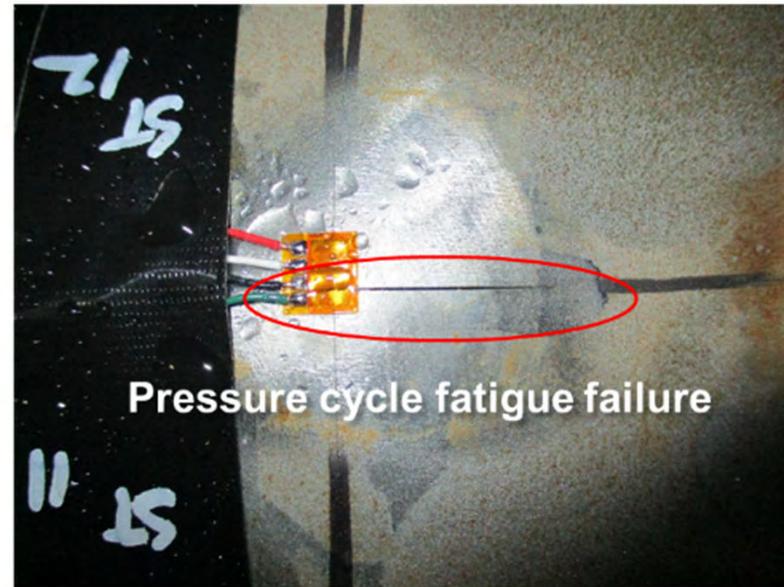


Have also tested up to 140°F (60°C)

# Case Studies (1/3)

## Pressure cycle fatigue testing dents

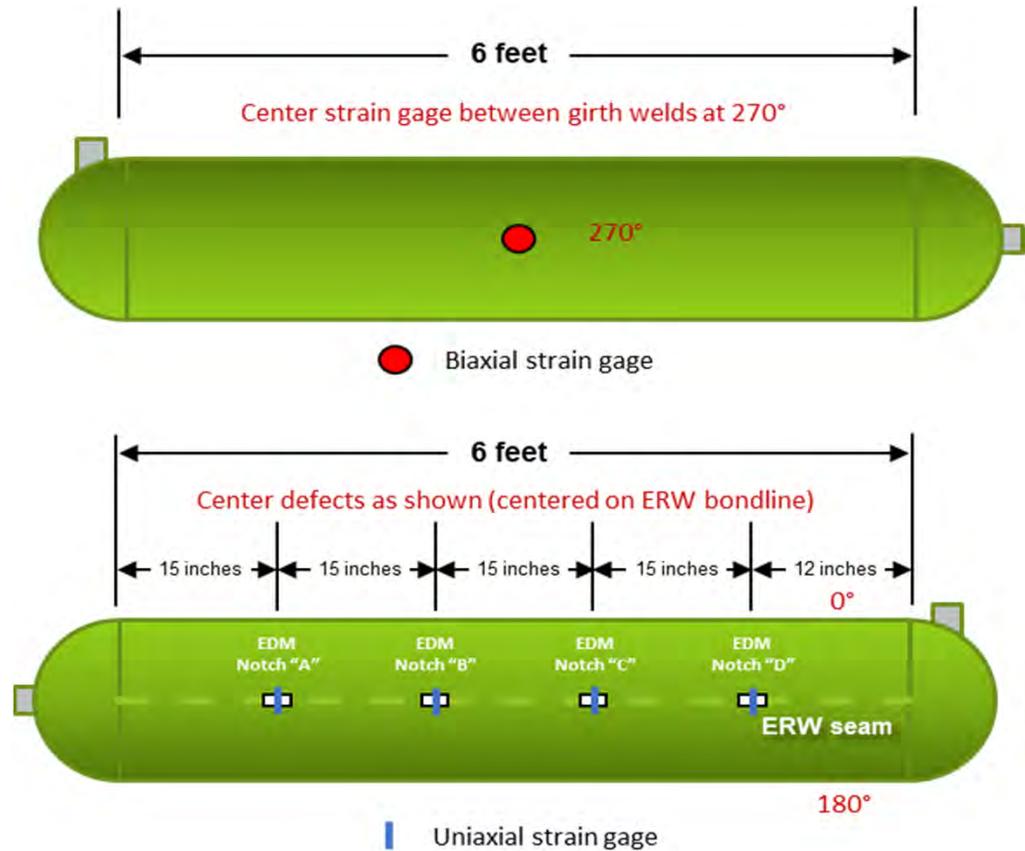
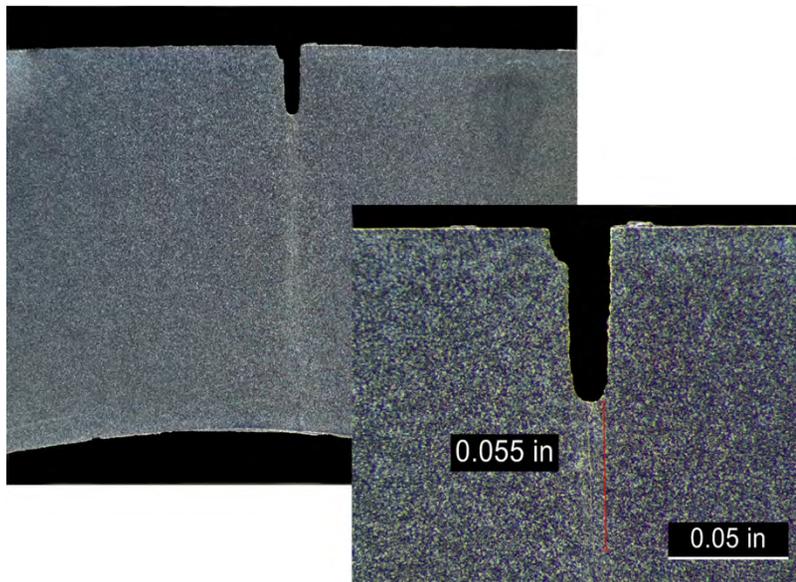
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In the test lab, dents can be simulated to achieve any geometry and also include interactions with seam welds, girth welds, and corrosion (to name a few).

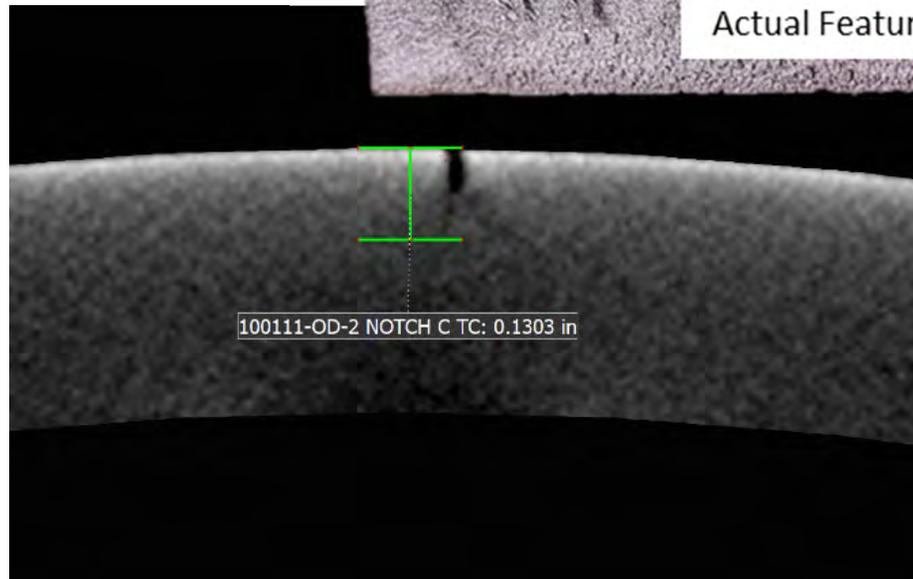
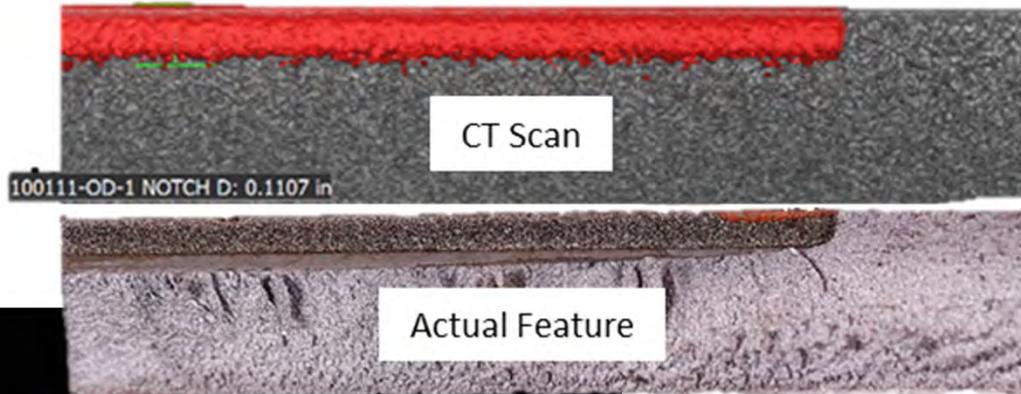
# Case Studies (2/3)

## Seam weld cracking and technology validation



# Case Studies (3/3)

## Seam weld cracking and technology validation

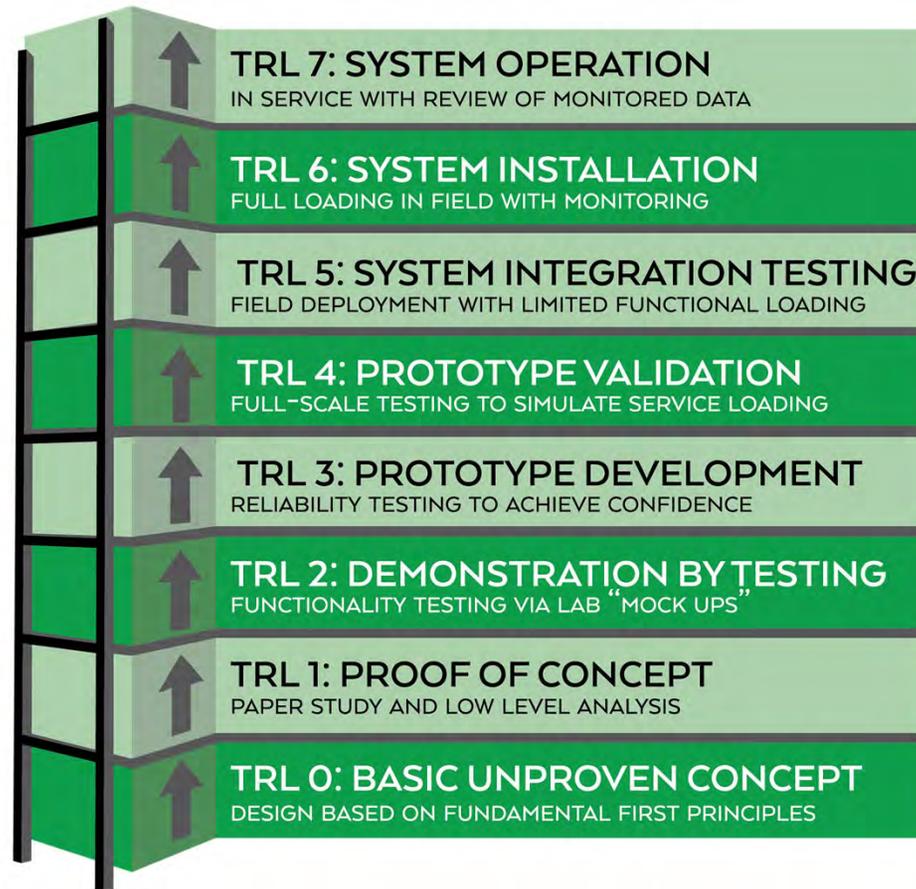


Inspection Technology

Computed tomography (CT) results inspection results of crack-like features in 12-inch NPS pipe material.

Validation program funded by Inspection Associates, Inc.

# Technology Readiness Levels



# Closing Comments on Testing

- **A well-designed and executed testing program can help operators manage pipeline threats**
- **Testing takes much of the “guesswork” out of determining what impact defects have on pipeline performance**
- **There is no substitute in using full-scale testing to validate new and existing technologies**
- **Test results are usually clear and concise, allowing engineers to communicate to the public, upper management, and regulators what’s important**

# **Part 2: Background on previous PRCI research and case studies**

# Typical Aims of Pipeline Repair Methods

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- Restore strength to damaged pipes
- Reduce strain in damaged areas of pipe
- Seal corroded area of pipe from further development of corrosion



# Target Applications of Repairs

- Gas and Liquid Pipelines
- Water Pipelines
- Small Utility Lines
- Chemical Plants
- Gas Plants and Refineries
- Offshore Facilities



# Uses of Composite Materials

(repair and structural reinforcement)

- **Metal wall loss (due to corrosion)**
- **Plain dents**
- **Mechanical damage (dents with a gouge)**
- **Re-rating pipeline system to achieve higher operating pressures**
- **Reinforcing sections like branch connections, bends, and elbows**



# Types of Composite Repairs

(used to repair pipeline systems)

## ▪ **Wet lay-up systems**

- Monolithic
- Can be applied to non-straight geometries
- Versatility in range of resin technologies (e.g. underwater, high temperature, slow cure, etc.)

## ▪ **Layered systems (e.g. Clock Spring and PermaWrap)**

- First widely-used composite repair technology
- Layered repair system
- Limited to repair of straight pipes

## ▪ **Hybrid systems: Steel and adhesives (e.g. Western Specialties' CompoSleeve)**

## Composite Repair Overview (1/2)

- **Composites widely accepted and used in repairing non-leaking transmission pipelines**
- **Plants use composite materials, including the repair of leaks**
- **Since 1994, more than 35 different composite repair systems have been evaluated experimentally**
- **Much of the early funding provided by manufacturers, although more recently operators are providing much of the funding**

## Composite Repair Overview (2/2)

- **Manufacturer co-funding with PRCI has been an ideal means for comparing competing repair technologies**
- **The ASME PCC-2 Standard has provided a common basis for evaluating composite technology**
- **Composite repair systems can be designed for unique applications**
- **Since 2005, more than \$20 million has been invested in composite repair research**

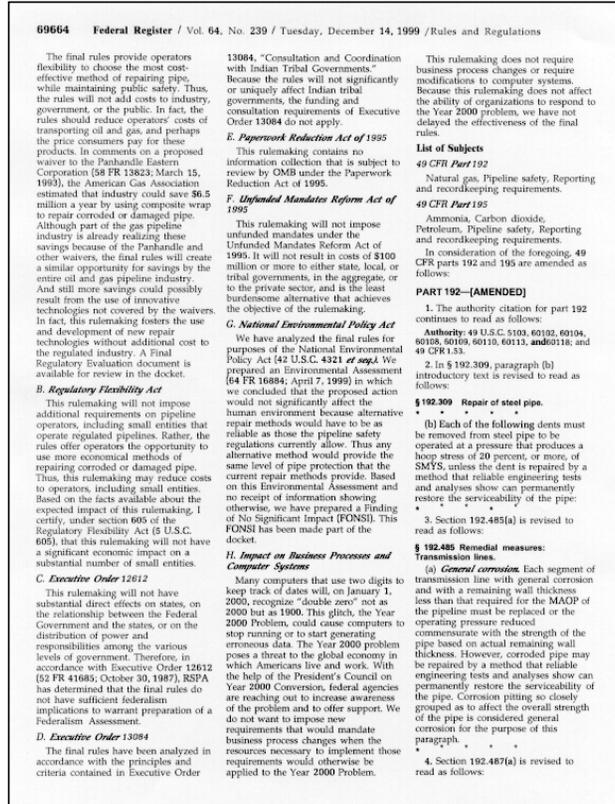
# Government Regulations

(from U.S. Department of Transportation)

On January 13, 2000, **Pipeline Safety: Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Repair**, was issued by the RSPA of the Department of Transportation, went into effect.

According to this document, the requirement for repairing corroded and dents in pipelines is as follows,

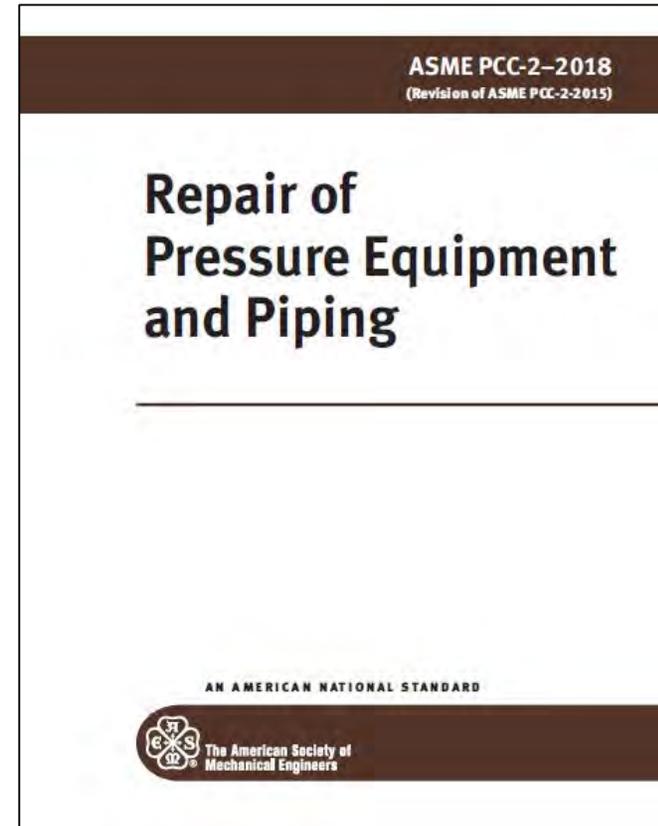
*...repaired by a method that reliable engineering tests and analyses show can permanently restore the serviceability of the pipe.*



Page from the RSPA-98-4733 document

# Industry Standards

- **ASME PCC-2 (and ISO 24817)**
- **Part 4 – *Nonmetallic and Bonded Repairs***
- **Committee is active and standard is developing to meet industries' needs**
- **Key benefit to industry is uniformity and establishing minimum design requirements**



# PRCI Composite Project List

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- **MATR-3-3**      *State of the Art* report
- **MATR-3-4**      Long-term buried pipe corrosion study
- **MATR-3-5**      Repair of dents (ERW and GW)
- **MATR-3-6**      Subsea study
- **MATR-3-7**      Girth weld study
- **MATR-3-9**      Re-rate study (est. MAOP)
- **MATR-3-10**     Composite Guideline Document
- **MATR-3-11**     Load transfer
- **MATR-3-12**     Delamination assessment
- **MATR-3-13**     Effects of pressure during installation
- **MATV-1-2**      Reinforcing wrinkle bends

## MATR-3-4 Long-term Study

- **The original program objective was to validate composite materials for long-term service**
- **Thirteen (13) companies participating in study**
  - Five 10-year study participants (21 samples each)
  - Eight 3-year study participants (12 samples each)
- **Final burst testing completed**
- **In general, results have been good**

# Original Participants

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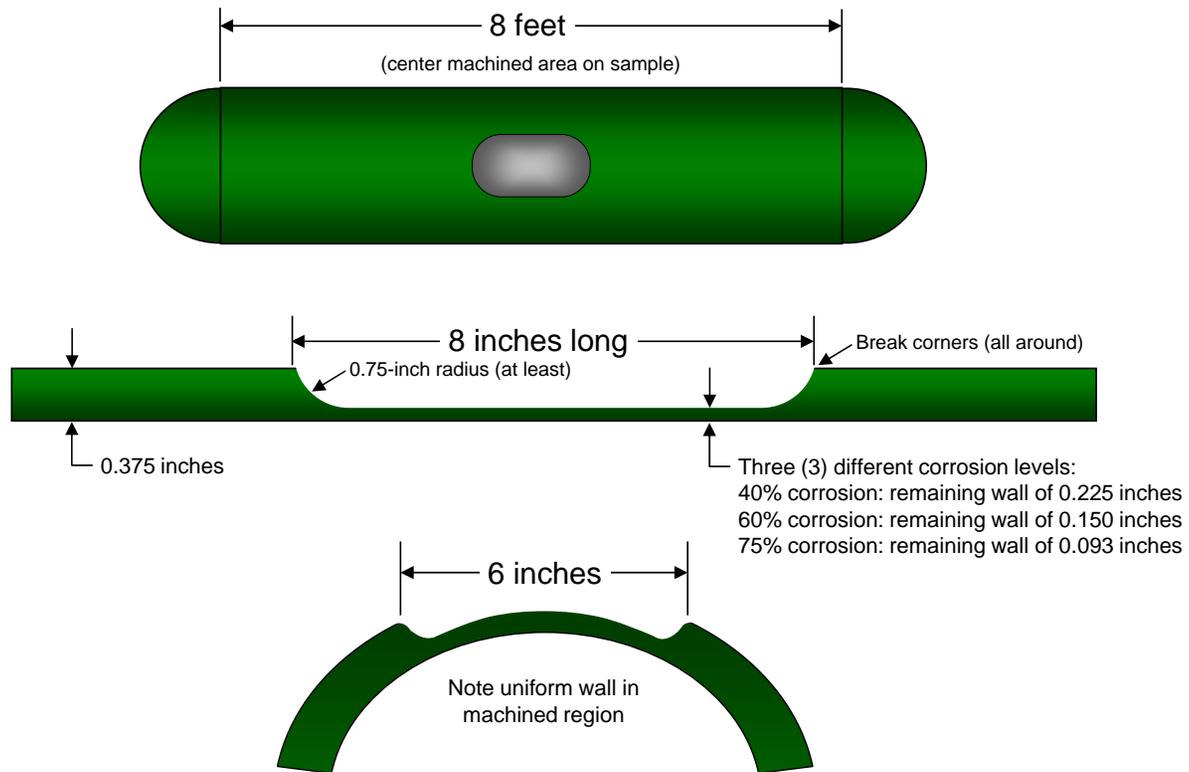
- **Armor Plate, Inc. (10 years)**
- **Air Logistics Corporation (3 years)**
- **Clock Spring Company, LLC (3 years) \***
- **Citadel Technologies (10 years) \***
- **EMS Group (10 years) \*\***
- **Furmanite (3 years)**
- **Neptune (3 years) \***
- **Pipe Wrap, LLC (3 years) \***
- **Pipestream (10 years) \*\***
- **T.D. Williamson, Inc. (10 years)**
- **Walker Technical Resources Ltd. (3 years)**
- **Wrap Master (3 years)**
- **3X Engineering (3 years)**

\* Currently operating as CS-NRI

\*\* No longer in the composite repair business

# Pipe Test Samples

12.75-inch x 0.375-inch, Grade X42 pipe (8-foot long)



**Details on machining**  
(machined area is 8 inches long by 6 inches wide)

# Test Field Layout



Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

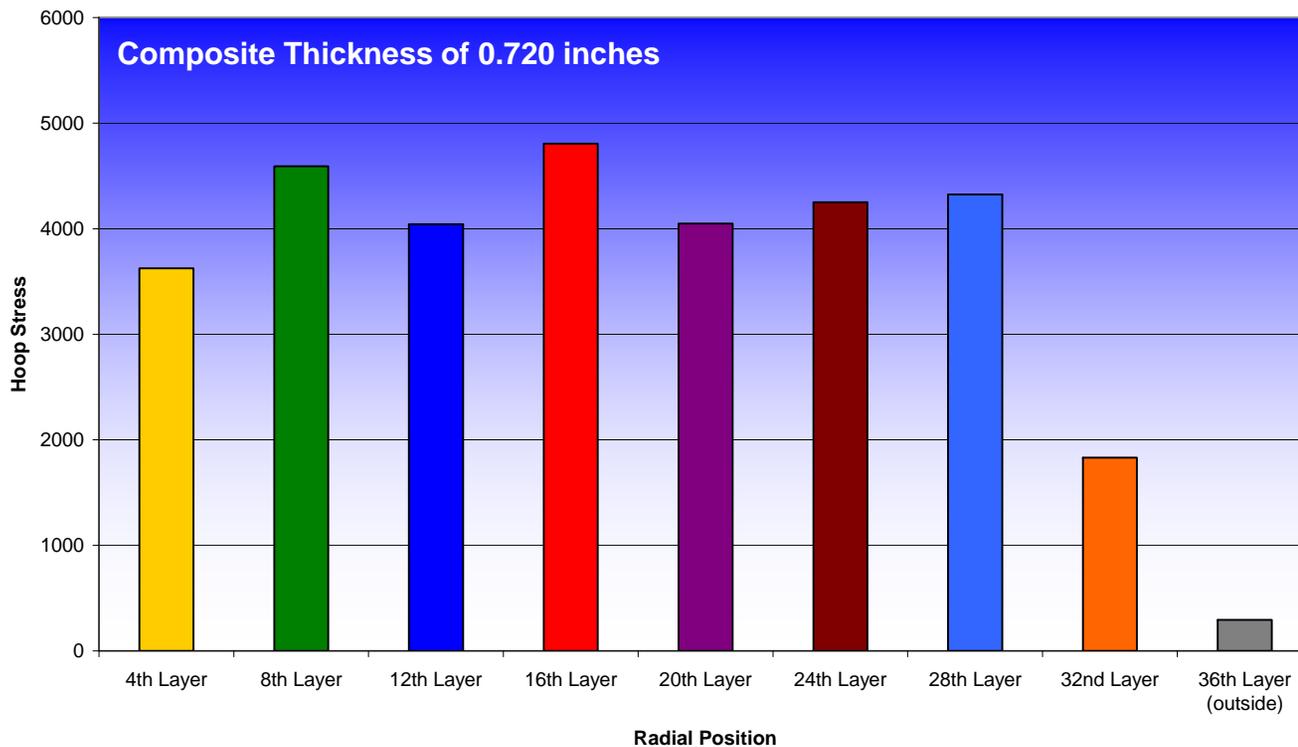
# Burst Test Effort



Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# Inter-Layer Stresses

Hoop Stress at 72% SMYS as a Function of Radial Position



Key for Long-term Performance

Safety Factor of 10.8 on short-term tensile strength

Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# Pressure Cycle Test Results

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- **12.75-inch x 0.375-inch, Grade X42 pipe samples with  $\Delta P = 36\%$  to  $72\%$  SMYS (75% corrosion)**
- **Results for different repair systems:**
  - E-glass system: 19,411 cycles to failure
  - E-glass system: 32,848 cycles to failure
  - E-glass system: 129,406 cycles to failure
  - E-glass system: 140,164 cycles to failure
  - E-glass system: 165,127 cycles to failure
  - Carbon system: 212,888 cycles to failure
  - Carbon system: 256,344 cycles to failure
  - Carbon system: 202,903 cycles to failure
  - E-glass system: 259,537 cycles to failure
  - Carbon system: 532,776 cycles (run out, no failure)
  - Hybrid steel/Epoxy system: 655,749 cycles to failure
  - Hybrid steel/E-glass system: 767,816 cycles to failure

Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

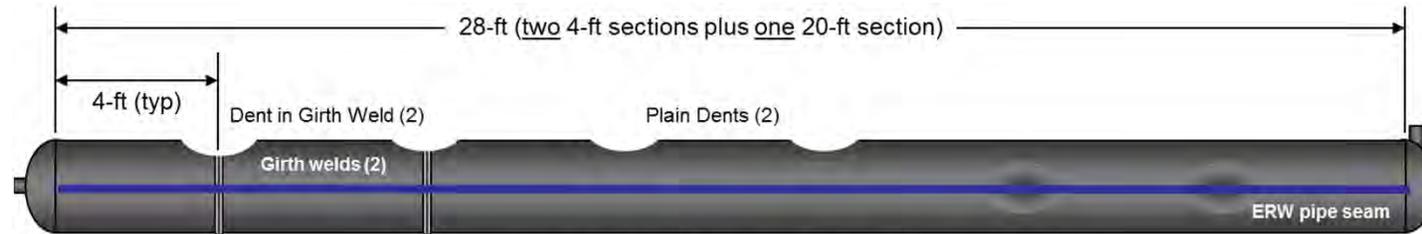
# MATR-3-5 Dent Study Overview

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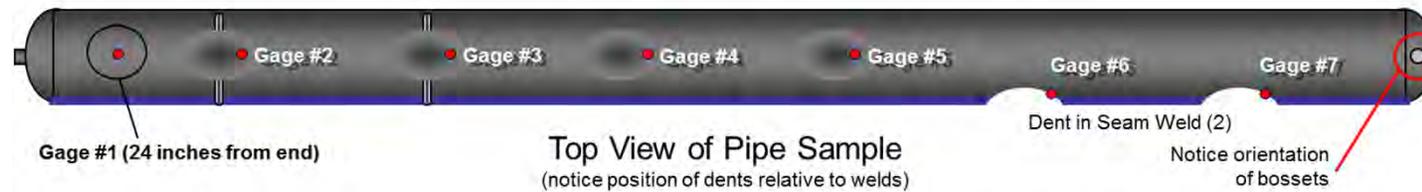
- **Program objective is to validate composite materials for repairing dents; comparison with existing technology**
- **Eleven (11) repair systems participating in study**
  - 2 rigid coil Systems (one E-glass & one steel)
  - 4 carbon Systems
  - 4 E-glass Systems
  - 1 Steel Sleeve System
- **One unrepaired test sample to serve as baseline**
- **Pipe: 12.75-inch x 0.188-inch, Grade X42 ( $\Delta P=72\%$  SMYS)**
- **Measured strain using strain gages beneath repairs**
- **Samples cycled to failure with 68 total dents in study**
  - 62 completed evaluating composite materials
  - 6 dents repaired using Dresser steel sleeves

# Strain Gage Locations

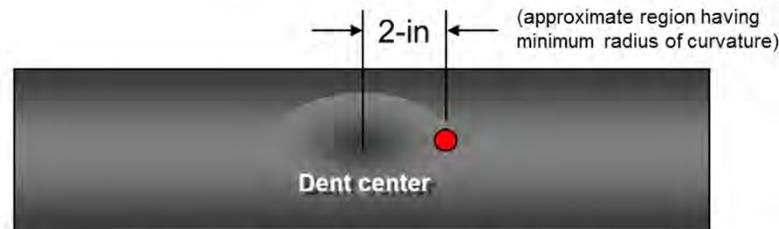
Samples fabricated using 12.75-inch x 0.188-inch, Grade X42 pipe material



Side View of Pipe Sample (6 defects total)



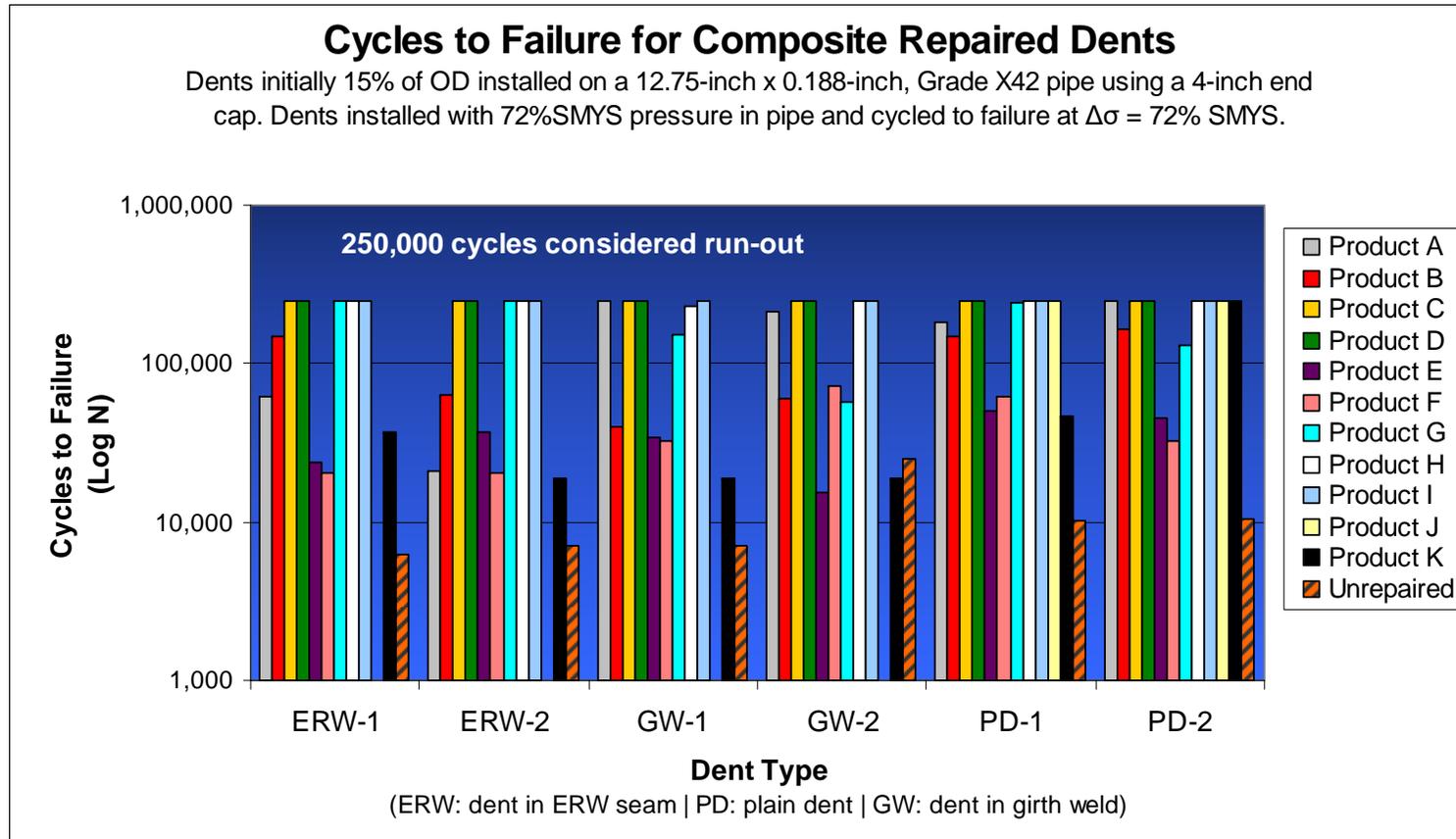
Top View of Pipe Sample  
(notice position of dents relative to welds)



Close-up View of Dented Region

Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.0

# Pressure Cycle Fatigue Data



Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# MATR-3-6 Subsea Study Overview

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- **Test sample repair configurations (5 repair systems)**
  - Burst sample
  - Pressure cycle fatigue sample
  - Tension-pressure sample (pre-blast / underwater blast)
  - Bending-tension-pressure sample
- **Test period of 10,000 hours**
- **All installation and testing work done underwater (simulated seawater conditions)**

# MATR-3-6 Photos (1/4)



Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

## MATR-3-6 Photos (2/4)



Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# MATR-3-6 Photos (3/4)



Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# MATR-3-6 Photos (4/4)

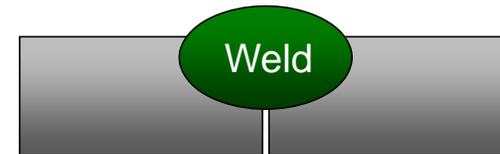


Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# MATR-3-7 GW Study Overview

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- **12.75-inch x 0.188-inch, Gr. X42**
- **Sample preparation**
  - Deflective girth welds fabricated (lack of penetration)
  - Material testing
  - Surface sandblast (NACE 2)
  - Strain gages installed
- **Five (5) repair systems tested**
- **Tension and bending tests**

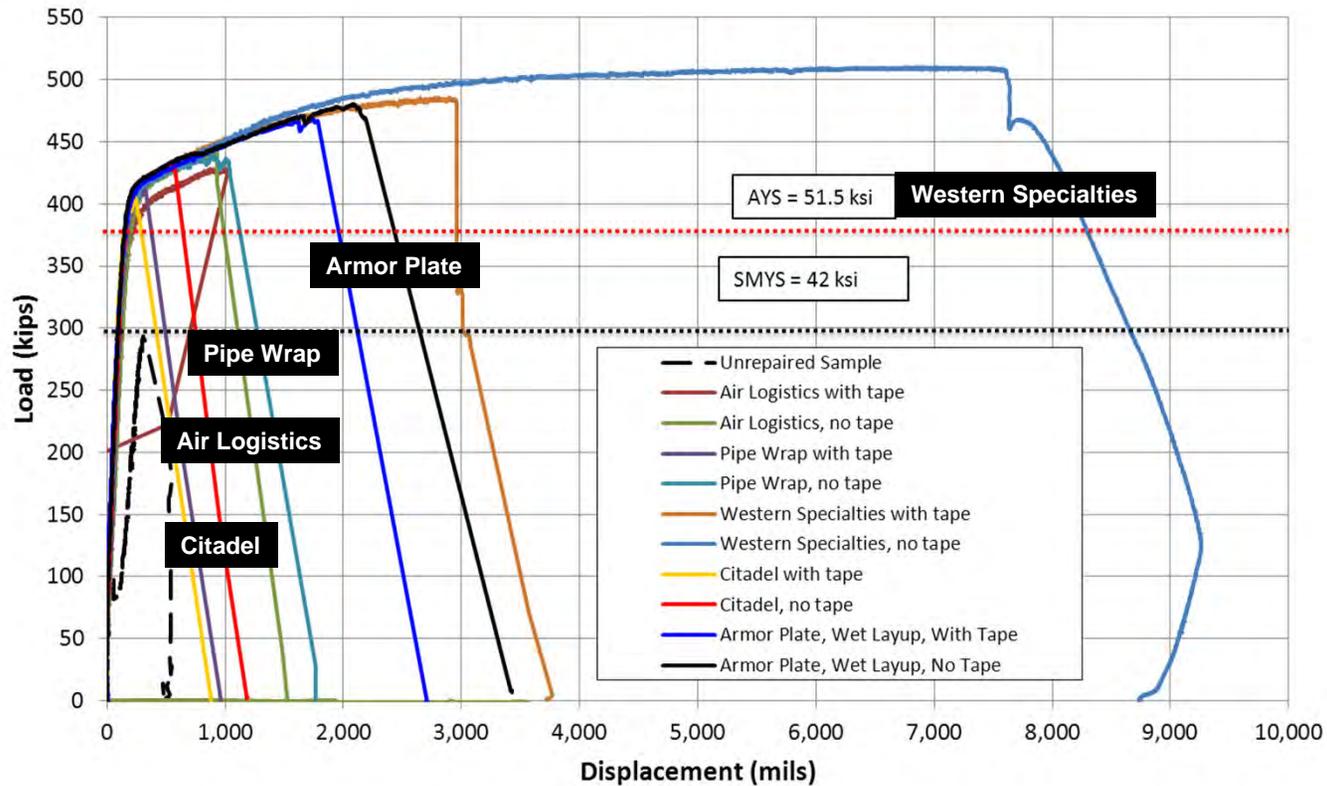


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Pipeline Centerline



Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# Tension to Failure Results



Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# Unrepaired Test Failures



Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# Repaired Test Failures

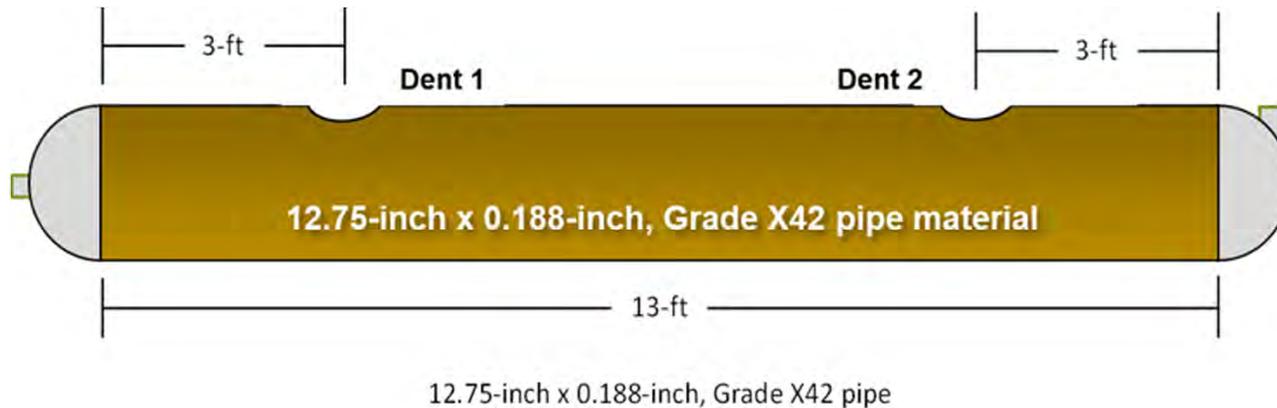


Courtesy of Stress Engineering Services, Inc.

# MATR-3-13 Study

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- Dented pipe samples 12.75-inch OD x 0.188-inch WT, Grade X42
- Pressure cycled until first failure
  - Failed dent is cutout, endcap re-welded, surviving dent is cycled to failure
- One (1) Unreinforced sample
- Six (6) Repair installations made under pressure (64% SMYS)



# NRI Steel Wrap

NRI-D02-64|Dent 2 leaked after 30,814 cycles



# WrapMaster

WM-D03-64|Dent 2 Leaked after 24,721 cycles



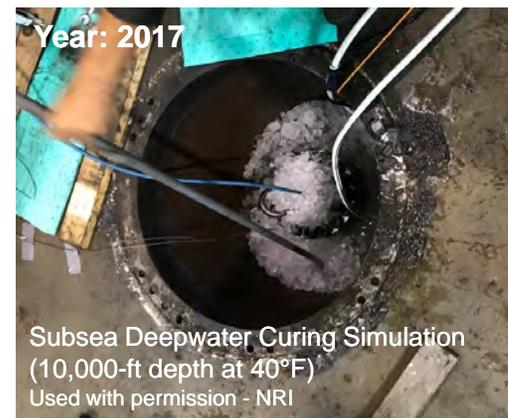
# Western Specialties ComposiSleeve

WSCS-D04-64|Dent 1 leaked after 59,927 cycles



## Recent Advances

- Optimized technologies, including the ability to weave specific fabrics for particular applications
- “Smart” sleeves involving the embedding of sensors and fiber optic technologies
- Remote monitoring with the ability to assess repairs and pipelines
- Deepwater composite repairs, including ROV-assisted installations (work with NRI)



# Overall Observations

- **For more than 25 years, the pipeline industry has been using composite repair systems**
- **A significant body of research exists addressing a variety of repair types**
- **We continue to learn more, which improves our confidence with composites**
- **Validating long-term performance is a critical effort in ongoing and future efforts**
- **Installation and quality control are probably today's hottest topic in composite repairs**

# **Part 3: The Future and Advancing the State-of- the-art**

# Where do we go from here?

- **Number of repairs will likely increase as ILI tools are improving their “sizing” capabilities**
- **Knowledge gaps exist in terms of:**
  - Elevated temperature performance
  - Reinforcement of cracks
  - Repair of leaking defects
  - Inspection technologies and assessment criteria
- **Current Research Ideas (TC Energy and ADV):**
  - *Composite Technology Leak Repair Research Idea* (June 13, 2019)
  - *Reinforcement of Crack-like Features Using Composite Materials* (July 7, 2019)

# Recent TC Energy Work

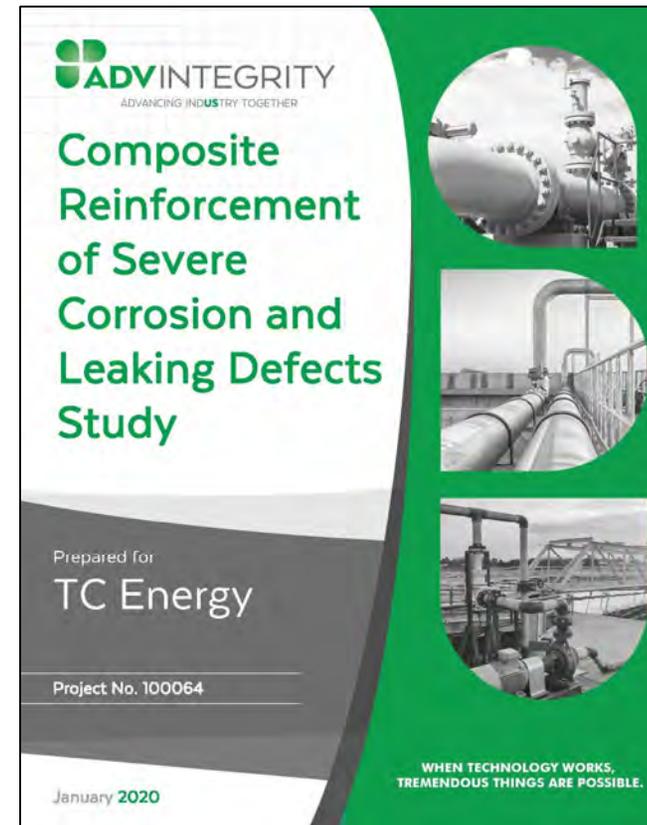
**A two-year study was conducted to evaluate the ability of composite repair systems to repair leaking corrosion features (Upcoming Paper No. IPC2020-9757)**



# Recent Leak Repair Study (1/3)

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- Stage I testing started in February 2018 and originally involved four (4) companies
- Stage II started in 2019 and involving Milliken and Western Specialties



## Recent Leak Repair Study (2/3)

### ▪ Major testing categories / elements:

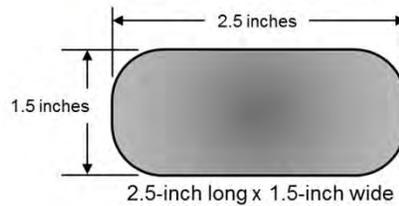
- Severe corrosion (85%) with thru-wall defects in extremely thin-wall 6-inch x 0.157-inch pipe
- Buried pipe samples with nitrogen gas (90 days)
- Elevated temperature up to 60°C (140°F)
- Cyclic pressure up to 80% SMYS, including elevated temperatures
- Reduced surface preparation (flash rust)
- Some repairs made with shop air

### ▪ Qualification based on burst and cyclic pressure results

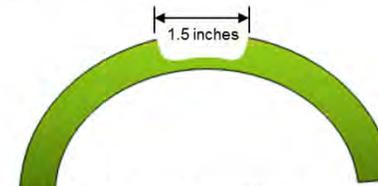
# Recent Leak Repair Study (3/3)



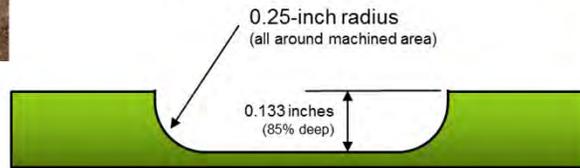
6.625-inch x 0.157-inch, Grade X52 pipe | 6-ft long



2.5-inch long x 1.5-inch wide

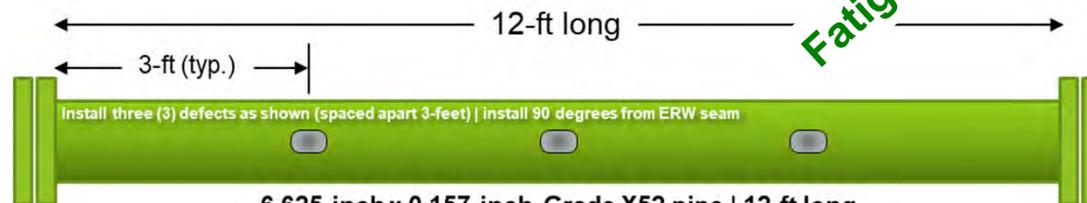


End view of machined area  
(contour machined area with pipe and is not flat-bottomed)



0.25-inch radius  
(all around machined area)

0.133 inches  
(85% deep)



6.625-inch x 0.157-inch, Grade X52 pipe | 12-ft long

**Burst Sample**

**Fatigue Sample**

# Wrapping it all up...



# Points of Discussion

- **New “applications” of composite repairs require careful consideration**
- **It’s important to understand the anomalies’ behavior and response to loading**
- **The required level of reinforcement dictates design of the composite**
- **Once designed, the composite repair should be validated via full-scale testing**
- **PHMSA advocates design by performance and supports validation using full-scale testing**

# Presentation Closing Comments

- **Thank you for not falling asleep!**
- **There is a wealth of research completed to date involving more than 1,000 tests over the past 20 years**
- **We keep learning more about reinforcing defects, but there is more work to be done**
- **Quality control in relation to installation methods and design optimization are the two biggest factors facing us in the pipeline industry**

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