

8-B Examination of Buried Pipe When Exposed

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1.0 SCOPE

This chapter covers procedures for external examination of buried steel *pipe* when exposed and internal examination when buried steel pipe is removed.

2.0 REGULATORY REFERENCES

49 CFR Part 192 §§ [192.459](#), [192.475](#)

3.0 PROCEDURE [192.459] [192.475]

- (a) Whenever any portion of a buried steel pipeline is knowingly exposed, the exposed section *must* be examined to determine if it is in satisfactory condition.
- (b) Steel pipelines are frequently uncovered during routine maintenance and construction work. Document the condition of exposed steel pipelines on the appropriate forms (see [section 5.0 Documentation/Forms](#).)
- (c) The condition of the external protective coating *shall* be examined on all exposed steel pipelines. If the pipeline is bare, if the coating is deteriorated, or if the coating is removed, the condition of the pipeline's external surface shall be examined.
- (d) If either the coating or pipeline is found in unsatisfactory condition, remedial action shall be taken and documented appropriately.
 - (1) A pipe to soil potential reading shall be made at the location and recorded as required. Copies of this report will be distributed as follows:
 - (i) Distribution reports are sent to the local qualified CP personnel and Manager.
 - (ii) Transmission reports are sent to the local Cathodic Protection Technician, Manager and Cathodic Protection Manager or designee. (Except for

(iii) This report *shall* be retained as long as the pipeline remains in service.

(e) If external corrosion is found, the pipeline shall be examined circumferentially and longitudinally beyond the exposed portion to determine whether additional corrosion that requires remedial action exists.

NOTE: If a section of steel pipeline is removed from the system, the internal surface of the removed segment shall be inspected. See [Chapter 8-G, section 3.2 Monitoring for Internal Corrosion](#).

4.0 TRAINING/QUALIFICATIONS

See the appropriate system Operator Qualification Program.

5.0 DOCUMENTATION/FORMS

Exposed pipe found unsatisfactory shall be documented on either the paper form or through the bell hole inspection app. If documented through the bell hole app it is the responsibility of the assigned analyst or designee to weekly gather and distribute the reports as required.

State Specific: South Carolina

- [Exposed Pipeline Examination Report \(DESC Form OM-402\)](#) (PDF file)

Corrosion control documentation shall be maintained for the life of the pipeline.

6.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS

None at this time.

7.0 APPENDICES

None at this time.

(UNCONTROLLED IF PRINTED)