INTERNAL CORROSION: IT’S IN THE PIPELINE

HOUSTON, TX, USA – NACE International announces the continuation of its series of pipeline seminars. The next seminar will be held May 10-11, 2006, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Houston, Texas, and will focus on Internal Corrosion, a topic of serious, growing concern.

Topics of discussion include: Monitoring & Evaluation, Sampling, Pigging and Chemical Treatments. The seminar will provide pipeline industry personnel with the information necessary to combat internal corrosion and prepare for changes relating to the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002.

The potential of catastrophic disaster within our pipeline networks is a constant threat to pipeline owners and operators. National security of these assets and terrorism is high on their radar screens – but consider this – what about a silent threat known as Internal Corrosion?

As pipelines age, their integrity is put to the test. Many different types of gases and liquids are forced through pipelines at extremely high pressure and the smallest area of Internal Corrosion can have a devastating effect.

In recent media reports, we are learning that this is exactly what has happened in Alaska’s North Slope. Journalists record that an estimated 250,000 gallons of crude oil leaked from a 34-inch pipeline, covering 2 acres near a lake on the frozen tundra.

“The corrosion may have resulted from water and sediment that are carried with viscous, or thick oil,” a BP spokesman said. The main pipeline, which stretches from Prudhoe Bay in the North Slope to Valdez in Prince William Sound, will be 30 years old in 2007. Furthermore, this recent leak has forced officials to turn their focus to the aging and deteriorated pipelines and their facilities throughout North America.

The Pipeline Safety and Security Act, which is geared toward improving the well-being of 2.2 million miles of U.S. pipelines, was passed and signed into law in November 2002. It mandated inspections of all pipelines in tiered timelines and set minimum standards for company programs to combat corrosion.

The NACE seminar will include a presentation by Ravi Chaatre of the National Transportation Safety Board, pertaining to the federal perspective on industry performance to reduce pipeline failures related to internal corrosion. For more information, visit www.nace.org/IC.

NACE International is a professional association dedicated to promoting public safety, protecting the environment, and reducing the economic impact of corrosion. Established in 1943, NACE International has more than 15,000 members worldwide and offers technical training and certification programs, sponsors conferences and produces industry standards, reports, publications, and software.