Leaders in Corrosion Control Technology

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NACE International sets new standards for 2007

HOUSTON (Dec. 19, 2006)—Just in time to start the new year right, NACE International has approved three highly anticipated standards for the control of corrosion—two of them dedicated to internal pipeline corrosion.

SP0106-2006, “Control of Internal Corrosion in Steel Pipelines and Piping Systems,” describes procedures and practices for achieving effective control of internal corrosion in steel pipe and piping systems in crude oil, refined products, and gas service. The complex nature and interaction between constituents found in gas and/or liquid may affect whether a corrosive condition exists in certain combinations of impurities transported in the pipeline. Identification of these corrosive conditions can be achieved only by analysis of operating conditions, impurity content, physical monitoring, and other considerations.

SP0206-2006, “Internal Corrosion Direct Assessment Methodology for Pipelines CarryingNormally Dry Natural Gas (DG-ICDA),” formalizes the process of internal corrosion direct assessment (ICDA), which can help ensure pipeline integrity in pipelines carrying normally dry natural gas. The basis of DG-ICDA is a detailed examination of locations along a pipeline where water may first accumulate, to provide information about the downstream condition of the pipeline. If the locations along a length of pipe most likely to accumulate water have not corroded, other downstream locations less likely to accumulate water may be considered free from corrosion.

Based on federal regulations on pipeline length and direct assessment of pipeline cracking, this standard has been highly anticipated by the U.S Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS). (The earlier standard on external direct assessments is RP0502, published in Dec. 2002.) OPS is expected to review SP0206-2006 within the next 90 days, for possible incorporation into regulations for pipeline integrity management plans and approval of its use in training materials.

ICDA is the four-step process involving pre-assessment, indirect examination, direct examination, and post assessment. It includes protocols for pigging and digging up pipelines and provides flow charts for next steps, based on what assessors find. It enables assessors to determine when to examine pipelines more closely and how to identify various risks for corrosion.

SP0294-2006, “Design, Fabrication, and Inspection of Storage Tank Systems for Concentrated Fresh and Process Sulfuric Acid and Oleum at Ambient Temperatures,” is pertinent to the refining, chemical processing, and other process industries. It provides recommended design, fabrication, and inspection practices for maintaining the mechanical integrity and minimizing the potential occurrence of undetected corrosion in concentrated fresh sulfuric acid tanks, process sulfuric acid tanks, or oleum storage tanks at atmospheric and low pressure. It presents inspection guidelines that aid in detecting and monitoring corrosion, with the overall aim of averting catastrophic failures caused by corrosion of carbon steel.
Formerly RP0294-94, this standard has been revised to address a need for stricter standards for corrosion related to fresh acid. SP0294-2006 is a partner standard to RP0205, which was developed by NACE International with input from the American Petrochemical Institute (API) in response to an explosion of spent acid in the Motiva refinery incident in Delaware in 2001. Since then NACE has worked with API to develop this revised, stricter standard for controlling corrosion related to fresh acid. The two standards may merge eventually.

For more information, visit www.nace.org.

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 17,000 members worldwide and offers technical training and certification programs, sponsors conferences and produces industry standards, reports, publications, and software.

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