Corrosion Management of Pipelines

Eurocorr – 9th September 2008 - Edinburgh

Background

- Oil & Gas upstream operator pipeline networks worldwide are ageing: Some pipelines are now more than 30 years old, in all types of operating conditions (multiphase, oil, gas, onshore, offshore,...).

- Recent pipelines accidents (not all due to corrosion !) have resulted in tremendous safety, environmental, and economic consequences, as well as huge governmental, general public, and media pressure.

- Sooner or later, operators will be requested to follow pipelines corrosion management (prescriptive?) rules by authorities, or at least, will have to justify in depth the quality of their corrosion management (analogy with new IMO rules for ballast tanks coatings in ships).

NACE Task Group 370: Pipeline Corrosion management

- **Objective**

  ''To develop a process-oriented document on managing corrosion of pipelines. This would reference existing standards, life-cycle methodologies, maintenance optimization, decision analysis, risk assessment, etc.''

- **Expected publication date: 2009**

- **During a meeting of the Pipeline Advisory Board Council at NACE 2008, there were discussions as to whether EFC could or should have some input in the NACE document, or whether it would be better developing a parallel document with a view of eventually merging the 2 in an ISO standard (analogy with ISO 15156). The second option was considered the best, given the urgency to produce the document in the US in view of changing regulations.**

Proposal

- To issue an EFC document summarising **''Industry's best practice for corrosion management of pipelines from design stage to end of life''.**
- The document would use reference to existing international standards when these are considered adequate => No need to re-write something which already exists !
- It is expected that both WP13 (internal & external corrosion) & WP16 (external corrosion) would need to be involved.
- Merging with the NACE document into an ISO standard is a long term issue. It is probably not worth starting efforts at EFC if this would not bring benefits as a standalone document.
- The document could then serve as a basis to discussions between design houses, operators, contractors, etc. but also with authorities if needed.