

# Round Table

# Best Practices in Pipeline Safety

2022 Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Pipeline Safety Seminar

Wisconsin Dells, Feb 10, 20



**“Best practices are used to maintain quality as an alternative to mandatory legislated standards and can be based on self-assessment or benchmarking.”**

Bogan, C.E. & English, M.J. (1994). Bench marking for Best Practices: Winning Through Innovative Adaptation. New York: McGraw-Hill.

# Panel Members

- Tom Reisdorf – PSC (retired)
  - Cory Geurts – Wisconsin Public Service Corp & IUOE Local 420
  - Phil Mauermann – WEC Energy Group
  - Jeff Murley – Alliant Energy
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- Moderator: Andrew Lindquist – PSC

# Question 1: Communication

Construction, operations, and contractor personnel often observe conditions of facilities, legacy materials, AOCs, and other concerns. They see conditions related to mapping, maintenance, integrity, locating, design, corrosion, etc. that can lead to insight and actions for the utility.

- What are some best practices for relaying these field observations to the right person? How do different groups work together?
- What is a process for gathering that information up?
- What is a process for disseminating information back down?

# Audience Questions

Speak up!

## Question 2: Emergency response

Emergencies require a high level of preparedness in the responders, even if they haven't seen an emergency before.

- What are effective ways utilities are training their responders to be ready in emergencies?

## Question 3: Damage Prevention

It's a back and forth relationship with the excavators.

- What is an effective means of getting excavators to follow safe practices and dealing with frequent violators?

It's a shared responsibility of excavators and locators.

- How can the utility provide quality assurance of locators and contract locators, and sufficient oversight to address problems?

# Audience Questions

Speak up!



## Question 4: Inspection

Welding is a complex task and requires inspection.

- How do utilities prepare inspectors to adequately inspect welding?
- What other measures provide oversight of welding?

Construction inspectors ensure crews are meeting standards

- How does the operator ensure its inspectors are knowledgeable on procedures?
- What resources do inspectors have?

Will we see more contractors performing operations and maintenance tasks, and is there a concern for the same quality work without more oversight? How can utilities provide this oversight?

# Question 5: Procedures

Procedures should address how tasks are performed by an individual.

- How can utilities describe actual performance of the task in a procedure?
- When is it appropriate to leave a procedure to the interpretation of the individual?

## Question 6: Placing meters

- How should utilities ensure meters are installed with the appropriate clearances on new construction, if the building is not complete?
- What is best practice when replacement projects include new service lines;
- Who is responsible for ensuring the replacement meter is in a suitable location (designer, inspector, foreman, driller, fitter?)

## Question 7: Handling of pipe

Utilities should avoid damaging pipe to minimize the amount that must be inspected, cut out, or repaired prior to burial.

- What are best practices for handling pipe at all stages, what is the expectation of shipments from the manufacturer
- How do companies ensure personnel protect it through storage, loading, and transit?



## Question 8: Boring Steel Pipe

- What are best practices for choosing to perform a current drain test?
- What precautions should be taken while boring steel pipe to avoid coating damage?

## Question 9: Segmentable Fittings

- When segmenting a steel elbow to achieve the right contour, what are best practices for maintaining adequate ovality and wall thickness throughout the entire elbow, to make a weld without gaps or hi-lo

# Question 10: Methane emission

- What action could an operator take to address non-hazardous leaks, either found during surveys or leak calls, and what time frame is best to address them?

## Question 11: Boring plastic

- Operators can judge the damage to plastic pipe after a bore shot from the gouges on the lead end. When is it advised to redo a bore or switch to steel?