Mechanical Damage Technical Workshop

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Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Happy Birthday

PHMSA

Progress and Problems

- Significant Downward Trend in Serious Accidents over 20 Years – Deaths and Injuries
- Significant New Rules on Integrity Management
- Major Investment in Research & Development
- Significant Efforts by Common Ground Alliance to Reduce Excavation Damage

BUT

Mechanical Damage Still Leading Cause of Pipeline Failures

Looking to the Future

- Rollout of Nationwide “811” Number for One-Call
- New Requirements for Distribution Integrity Management
- Increased Public Confidence in Integrity Management
  - Promise of Finding Defects Before They Cause Failure
- Synergy – Advanced Technology, Improved Fabrication & Construction, Emphasis on Integrity, New Knowledge
- Need Better Technology for Mechanical Damage

Why are we here?

- Mechanical Damage Study Award
  - Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

- Setting a Benchmark for Mechanical Damage

  - How do we define it?
  - How do we prevent it?
  - How do we detect it?
  - What technology is needed?

Some Challenges

- Susceptibility of the Entire Pipeline Infrastructure
- Finding Damage Before Failure Occurs
- Finding Latent Damage
- Randomness of Outside Force Damage
- Development Around Pipelines – TRB Report
- Inadequate Technology

What is your Charge?

- Help Define a Common Understanding
  - A Common Frame of Reference
  - Recognizing Variations Across Operators
- Help Us Understand the State of Technology
  - What Technology is Needed
- Help Us Align our Strategic Goals & Approach
- Provide Guidance on What Should be the Focus of the Baker Mechanical Damage Study