

MMS Supports Inaugural Clean Pacific Conference

Agency Highlights Partnerships in Oil Spill Prevention and Response

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) joined federal and state government agencies and the energy and maritime industry recently in addressing regional cooperation in areas of spill prevention and response, security and environmental protection at the Clean Pacific 2007 Conference on September 13-14, 2007 in Seattle, Washington.

The theme of the inaugural conference was *Expanding Partnerships in Spill Prevention, Response and Port Security*.

During the two-day conference, MMS highlighted the agency's ongoing research associated with operational safety and pollution prevention, as well as oil spill response and cleanup capabilities. The agency also shared information on its regional spill prevention and response cooperation with lead response agencies and the coastal states of California and Alaska.

MMS pipeline engineer Theresa Bell gave a presentation entitled, "[The Offshore California Pipeline Inspection Survey Plan – A Cooperative Process in Preventing Oil Spills.](#)"



MMS and OHMSETT Personnel staff participate in the CLEAN PACIFIC Conference in Seattle, Washington. Pictured left to right are: Greg Sanders, MMS biologist; Craig Ogawa, MMS regional oil spill coordinator, Theresa Bell, MMS engineer; John Romero, MMS public affairs officer; Jane Delgado, OHMSETT marketing specialist; Paul Meyer, OHMSETT mechanical engineer; Joe Mullin, MMS oceanographer; and Bill Schmidt, OHMSETT program manager.

In addition, MMS teamed up with the national oil spill test facility known as OHMSETT, the Oil and Hazardous Materials Simulated Environmental Test Tank, to showcase spill prevention and response activities with a joint booth on the conference floor. The MMS manages OHMSETT, which is a vital component of the agency's oil spill research program. Information gathered at OHMSETT plays an essential role in the development of new technology and in the creation of more effective procedures for responding to oil spills. OHMSETT is also the premier training site for spill response personnel.

To learn more about MMS's Technology Assessment and Research Program and the National Oil Spill Test Facility, go to <http://www.mms.gov/offshore/SafetyandOilSpillResearch.htm>

For information on the Clean Pacific Conference, go to <http://www.cleanpacific.org/>

The Minerals Management Service is responsible for managing the Nation's offshore energy and mineral resources and the collection and disbursement of revenues associated with energy and mineral resource production from Federal and Indian lands. Under authority of Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the MMS will regulate alternative energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf. Alternative energy includes wind, wave, and ocean current and solar.

-- MMS --



The Offshore California Pipeline Inspection Survey Plan – A Cooperative Process in Preventing Oil Spills

Theresa Bell
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Minerals Management Service

Seattle, WA

September 13, 2007



Minerals Management Service (MMS), a bureau under the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages energy and minerals resources on the Outer Continental Shelf and collects and disburses revenues from mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands

Summary

- Background
- Pipeline Inspection Tools
- Offshore California Pipeline Inspection Survey (OCPIS) Plan
- Implementation of the OCPIS Plan
- Case History

Background

- In 1990, MMS Pacific OCS Region issued policy requiring internal and external pipeline inspections on alternating years
- Offshore pipelines often under multiple jurisdictions
- Other agencies had conflicting requirements

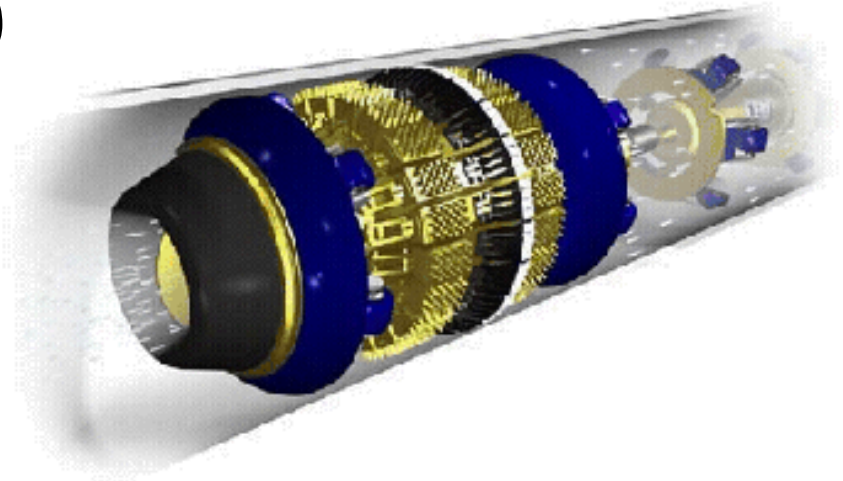
Pipeline Inspection Tools

- External inspections conducted by remotely operated vehicle or side scan sonar
- Used to detect potential external problems including spans, debris, coating damage



Pipeline Inspection Tools (cont.)

- Internal inspections conducted by smart pigs
- Used to detect wall loss (corrosion) and some dents



Agencies on Pipeline Inspection Quality Improvement Team



MMS received some waiver requests from the pipeline operators & saw a need for uniform inspection policy. Decided to form a team

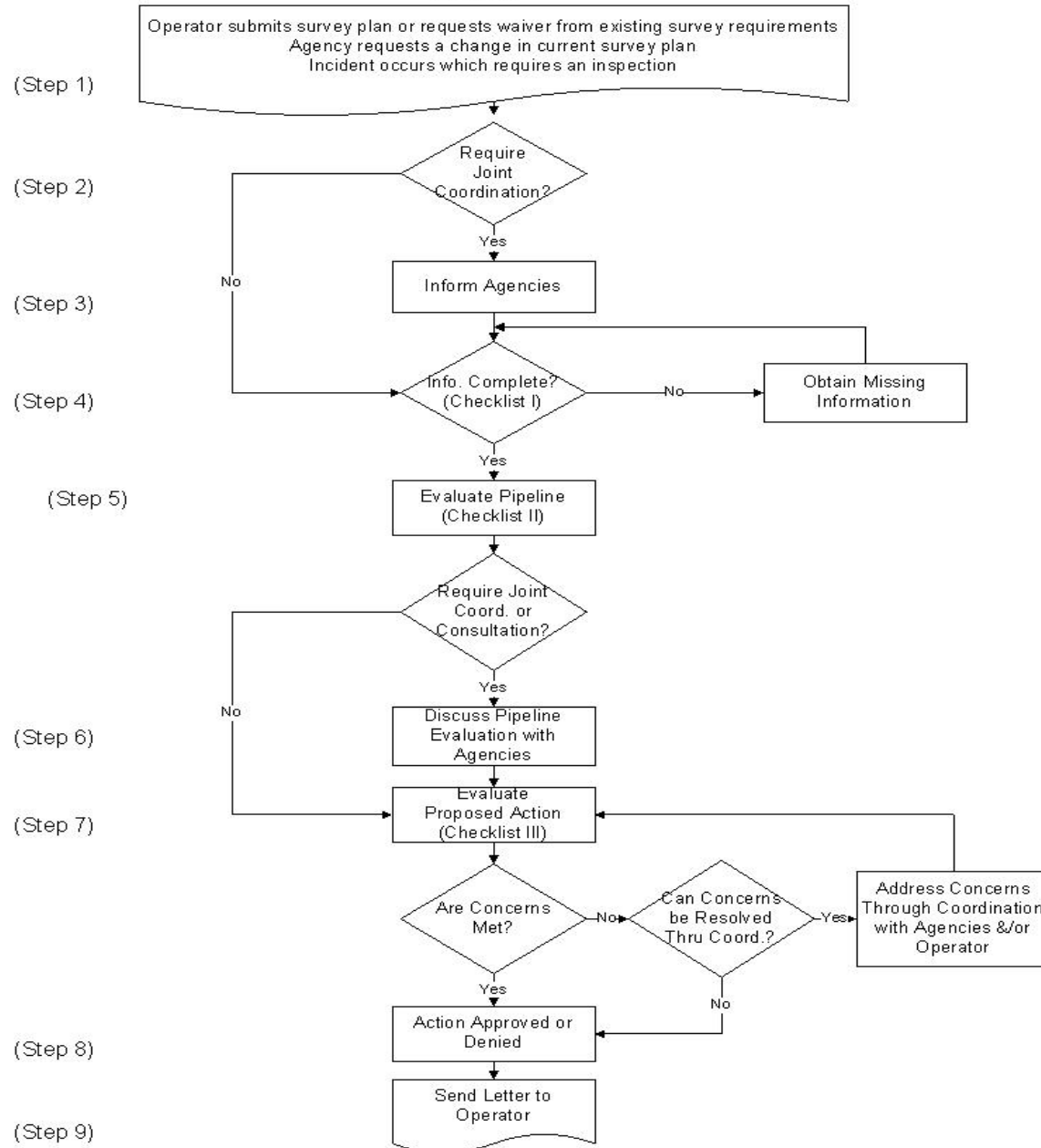
- Minerals Management Service (MMS)
- California State Lands Commission (CSLC)
- California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) (designated representative for U.S. Depart. Of Transportation (DOT))
- California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (CDOGGR)

Goals of the Offshore California Pipeline Inspection Survey (OCPIS) Plan

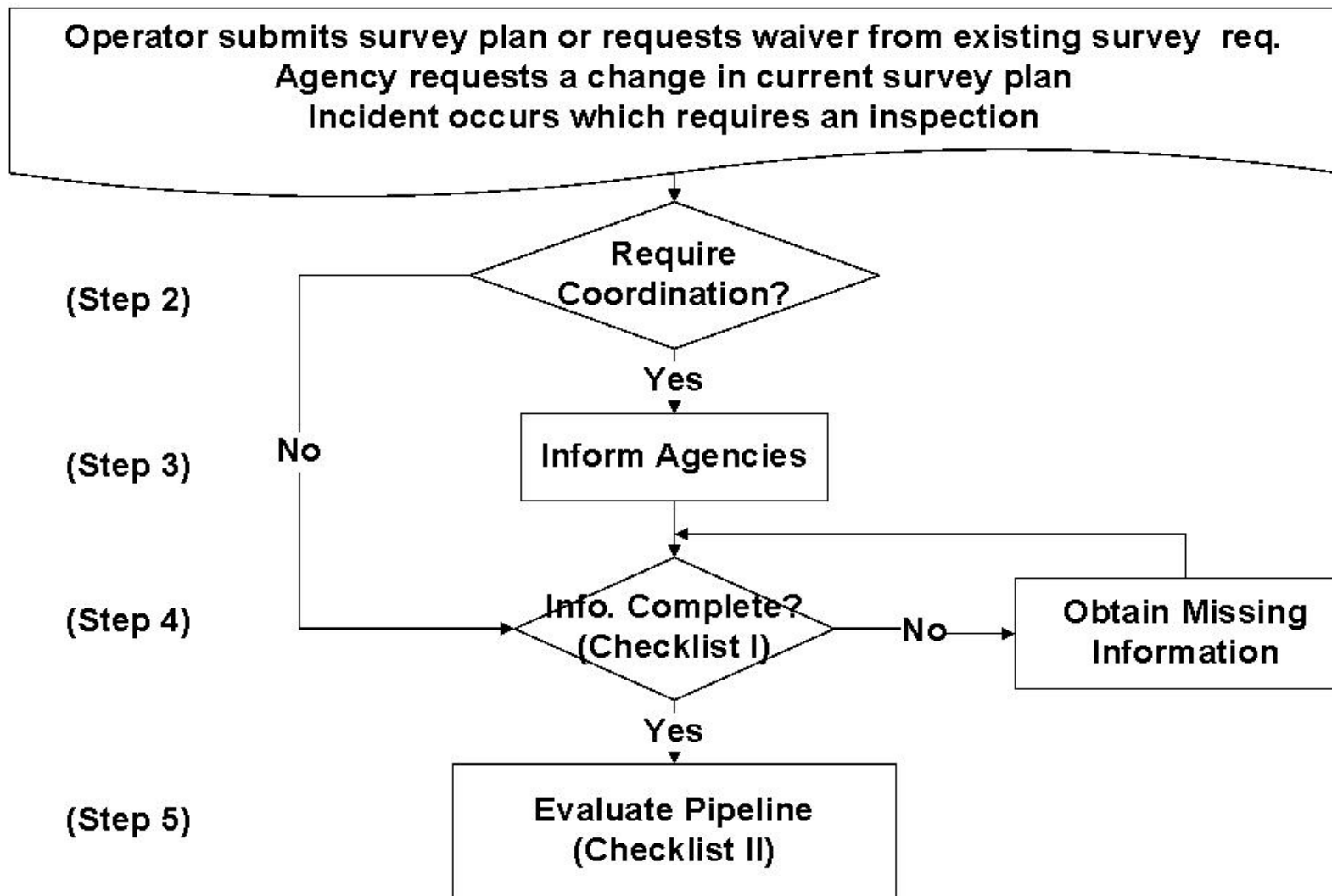
- Streamline regulatory process for operators
- Identify and resolve agencies' issues and concerns
- Develop partnerships with agencies
- Develop alternative inspection or remediation proposals, as needed
- Make appropriate recommendations

Offshore California Pipeline Inspection Survey Plan

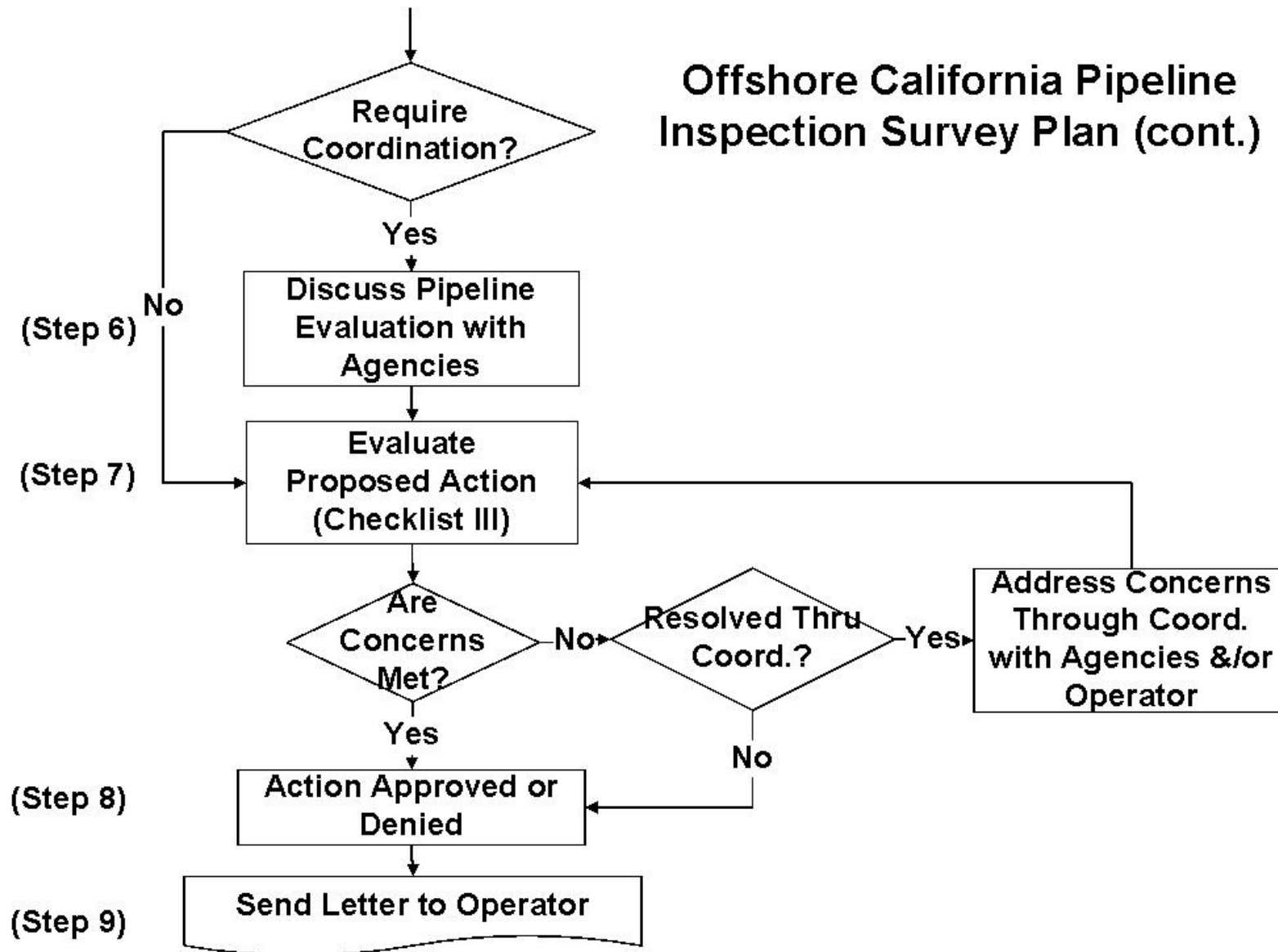
(Figure 1)



Offshore California Pipeline Inspection Survey Plan (Figure 1)



Offshore California Pipeline Inspection Survey Plan (cont.)



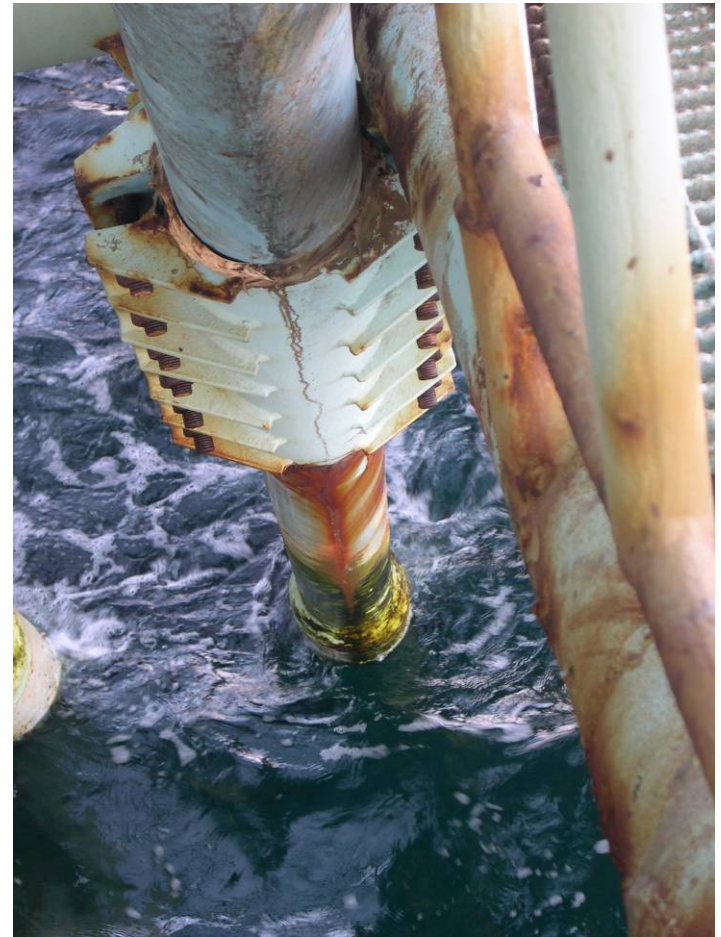
Checklist I - Data and Information

- Pipeline Specifications
- Operating Conditions
- Environmental Factors
- Inspection History
- Maintenance History
- Recent Incidents



Checklist II - Analysis and Conclusions

- Pipeline Evaluation
- Compliance History
- Risk Assessment



Checklist III

Recommendations

- Agency Concerns
- Actions:
 - Approved, Denied,
Alternative Plans, Remediation
- Final Recommendations

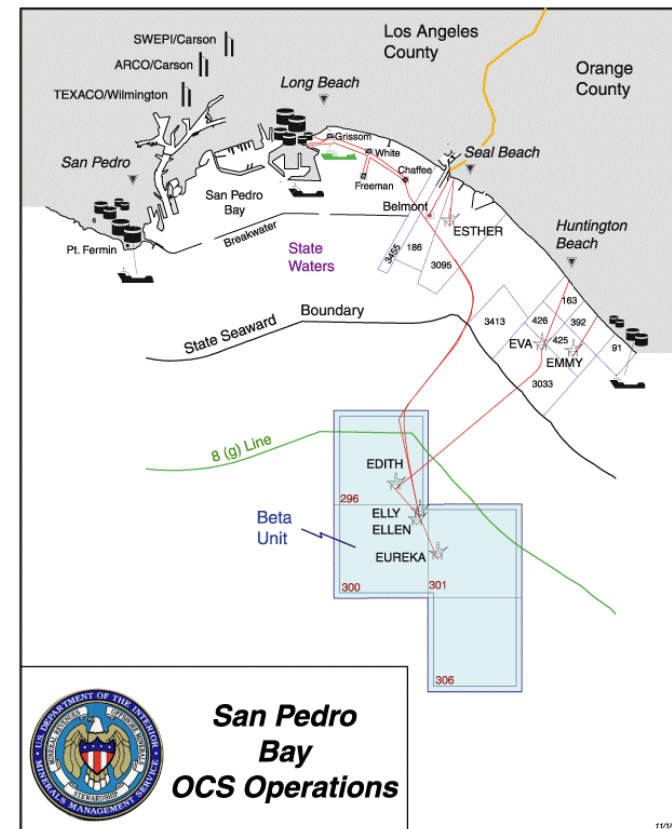


Implementation of the OCPIS Plan

- Agencies started using the plan immediately for coordination
- First time OCPIS Plan was really used was at the Irene Oil Pipeline Spill
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with agencies, including DOT, signed in 1999

Case History – Platform Elly Oil Pipeline

- Problem: Pipeline never internally inspected
- Reason:
 - Asphaltene/paraffin build-up
 - Bend radius
 - Dents in pipeline
 - Vertical pig launcher



Case History (cont.)

- Solution: Agencies worked with the pipeline company to resolve issues and push project forward

The company to set a schedule and submit monthly progress reports

Case History (cont.)

- Milestones
 - Hydrostatic test at MAOP
 - Caliper pig
 - Test with mock-up of dent
 - Pipeline cleaning lasted over 1 year



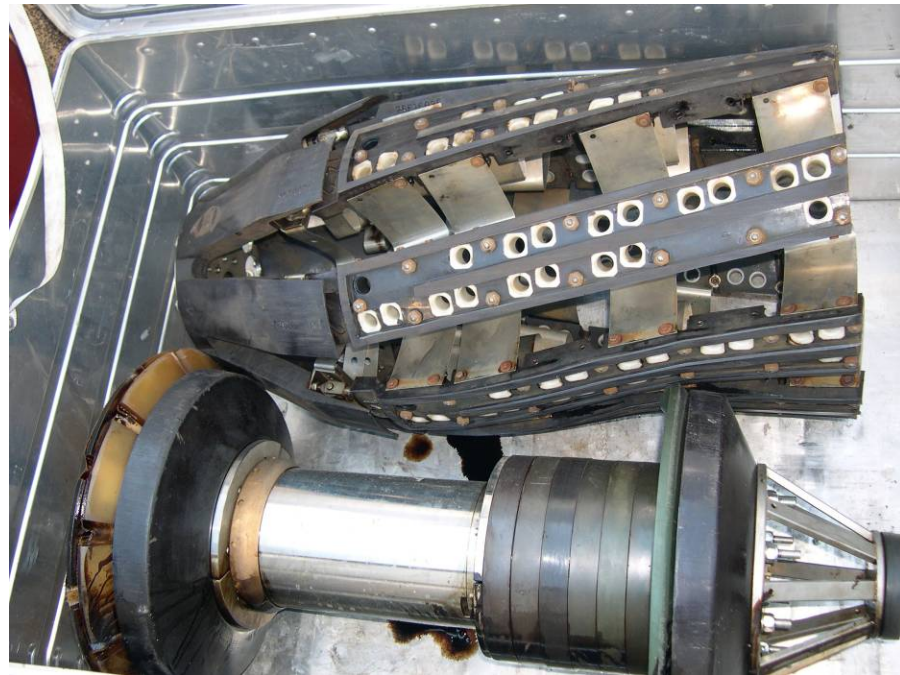
Case History (cont.)

- First smart pig run
July 24-26, 2007

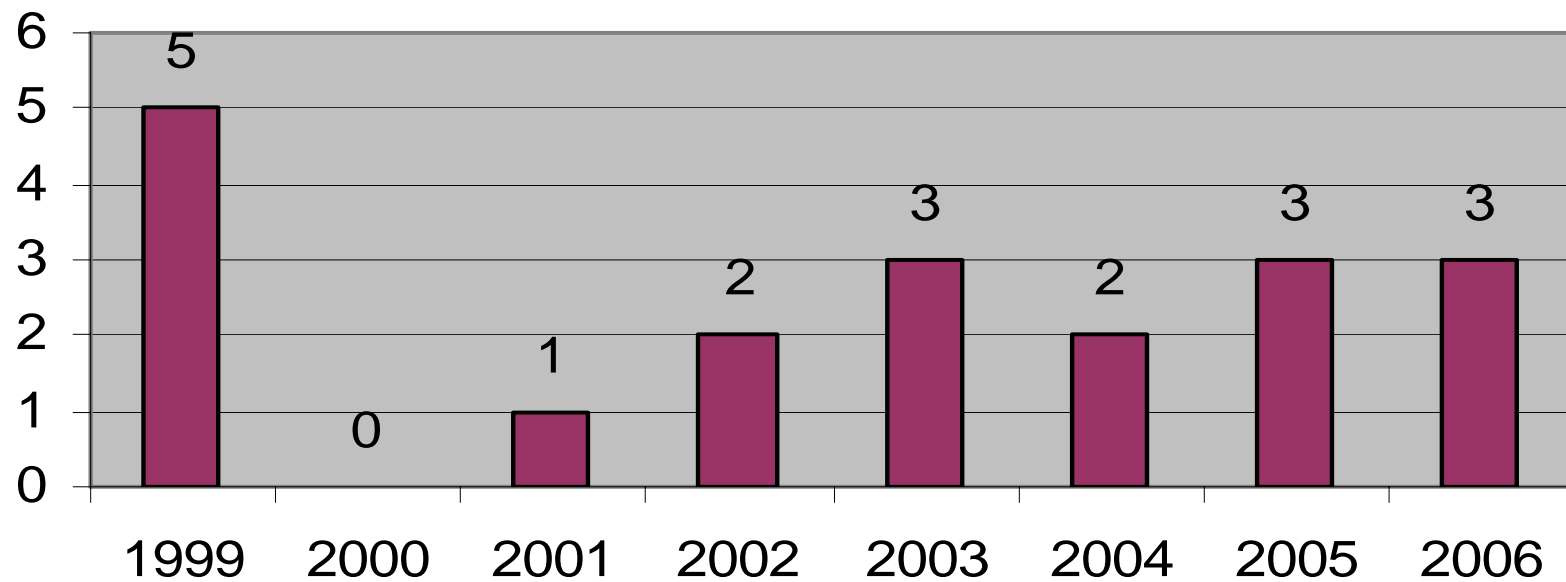


Case History (cont.)

- Current Status



Preventative Pipeline Repairs in Pacific OCS Region



Conclusion

- OCPIS Plan was immediately implemented
- Useful consensus decision tool
- Achieves agencies' and operators' goals
- Ensures safety, protects the environment and prevents oil spills

