

October 2021

Gas Circuit Rider Newsletter

Expect Supply Shortages & Longer Lead Times

Troy Dahlin, MMUA's former Gas Circuit Rider, now with Groebner and Associates, would like to let operators know that parts and supplies are getting further out. He indicated the typical lead time on supplies is 40-weeks, however some supplies have a 1-year lead time. It would be advisable to start looking at next year's projects, talk with your suppliers about lead times and order accordingly. You may want to consider keeping more inventory on hand to minimize potential impact.

Update on Pipes Act of 2020

MNOPS sent out a notice on the Pipes Act of 2020, which is outlined in the attached American Gas Association (AGA) paper. There is a list of minimum federal safety standards from a notice of proposed rulemaking showing possible code changes for all natural gas pipe operators, and transmission pipeline operators with high consequence areas in which they run pipe larger than six inches in diameter. The Act also requires procedure revisions specific to each operator's system, along with a Management of Change, and the development of steps to mitigate or minimize natural gas emissions from fugitive (leaks), or intentional releases during normal operations and maintenance. Operators must also address public safety and protecting the environment. APGA is updating the SCHRIMP program, and I will be participating in an online class they are offering next month. As soon as possible, I'll provide an update on the SCHRIMP program changes and how they will impact the Distribution Integrity Plan.

Gas System Pressure Monitoring

The City of Tyler is already monitoring their low side pressure on the DRS to alarm for low pressure. Some gas measurement equipment has high- and low-pressure transducers with the capability of monitoring pressures and sending alarms with cell phone messaging data technology, so there is a possibility to continuously monitor at crucial pressure areas with a relatively inexpensive upgrade to the gas system. These would also be able to replace the old paper charts when used appropriately. While this would not allow an operator to remotely control a DRS, it would allow the operator to monitor and respond to alarms, thereby minimizing potential operation and maintenance leaks.

Duraline has released a 14th update on the coil whip pipe matter. The update indicates they have now found instances dating back to 2013, and there still been no known leaks caused by the pipe wall thinning due to coil whip. The 14th update was sent the 18th of October, and contains a table created from a creep life failure test done back in the late 1980's.

October is National Fire Safety month. Don't forget to have fire extinguishers checked, and batteries checked or replaced on smoke & CO detectors.

HELPFUL LINKS

- [**Procedures for 2020 Pipes Act**](#)
- [**AGA Summary of 2020 Pipes Act**](#)
- [**Part 192 Federal Safety Standards**](#)

If you have any questions or if I can be of assistance, please contact me.

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