

# The MAOP Reconfirmation Process

## a Visual Timeline

The MAOP reconfirmation process involves verifying and validating the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of a natural gas pipeline. The MAOP is the maximum pressure at which a pipeline can safely operate under normal conditions without compromising its integrity. The reconfirmation process is typically conducted periodically to ensure that the pipeline's MAOP remains accurate and up to date.

The MAOP reconfirmation process's main purpose is to ensure the continued safe operation of natural gas pipelines.

By periodically verifying and validating the MAOP, operators can:

**Ensure Compliance:**

Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and industry standards governing the operation of natural gas pipelines.

**Maintain Public Confidence:**

Demonstrate a commitment to safety and environmental stewardship, thereby maintaining public confidence and trust in the pipeline's operation.

**Enhance Safety:**

Identify and mitigate potential risks to pipeline's integrity, thereby reducing the likelihood of accidents, leaks, or failures.

**Optimize Performance:**

Evaluate and optimize the pipeline's performance to maximize efficiency and reliability while minimizing environmental impact.

### Integrity Assessment

Conduct an integrity assessment to identify potential threats to the pipeline's integrity such as missing feature specifications including pipe grade wall thickness or missing hydrotest records.

### Pressure Test Verification

Validate the results of pipe specifications and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

### Regulatory Compliance Review

Review regulatory requirements and ensure compliance with applicable regulations and standards.

### Final Approval

Obtain final approval from regulatory authorities or internal stakeholder before implementing any changes to the pipeline's operating parameters.

### Data Collection

Gather historical data including pipe installation records, material specifications, and previous test pressure results using data recorded during the time of installation also known as "As-Builts".

### Review of Operating Conditions

Review current maximum allowable operating pressure, year of installation, and feature specifications.

### Documentation and Reporting

Document the results of the MAOP verification process including field findings, pipe grade, and wall thickness.

### Stakeholder Engagement

Engage with stakeholders including regulatory agencies, landowners, and affected communities to communicate findings and address concerns.



## Client Satisfactory MAOP Verification Design Procedure

### 1 Pipeline Integrity Features Confirmation

Client determines and provides the identified features that are threats to the pipeline's integrity along with a dig package stating the missing pipe specifications.

### 2 Survey

Client provides survey data of the locations prior to a site visit. The site visit is performed to obtain accurate GPS coordinates of the dig locations and gather specific field findings contractors should be aware of prior to construction.

### 3 Base Map Completion

Existing utility information is gathered via design tickets, GIS Data, SUE Surveys, etc. before being added to the drawing set along with all other existing conditions.

Real Estate and Environmental Reports are also requested to provide any information that should be accounted for prior to construction.

### 6 Final Approval

Drawing undergoes updates requested by the client and are reviewed by the Professional Engineer.

Once the drawing is approved and stamped, it is released to the client to perform the necessary steps leading up to the MAOP Verification Procedure.

### 5 Review

Followed by an internal review, the drawings of the MAOP Verification Digs are sent to the client for review.

### 4 Dig Investigation Scope Creation

Each MAOP Verification Dig location is shown including an investigation scope which includes a 2D drawing of the requested feature investigation such as pipe, elbow, reducer, etc.

Each drawing includes the accurate GPS coordinates gathered from the field, depth of the feature in question, and the pipe specifications that need to be confirmed during the MAOP Verification.