TDW Offshore Services
Fabrikkveien 15
P.O. Box 8011
N-4068 Stavanger
NORWAY
ph: +47 51 44 32 40
fax: +47 51 44 32 41

www.tdwilliamson.com
ISO 9001:2008
ISO 14001:2004
OHSAS 18001:2007

An Isolation First for Safe Valve Replacement

T.D. Williamson Combines Multiple Non-Intrusive Intervention Technologies, including First-Ever Use of SmartPlug ® Tool with Hot Tapping On-Shore in the Lower 48 States.

#oilandgas

(Tulsa, OK, October 18, 2017) -- Liquids management is an ongoing challenge for natural gas operators in the Eagle Ford shale play. Pigging to displace pipeline liquids is essential to maintaining throughput, minimizing the potential for corrosion, and providing access to valuable condensates.

When leaking valves on both the launcher and receiver jeopardized pigging operations on two, 24-inch, 100 km (62 mi) natural gas pipelines located approximately 150 m (492 ft.) apart, the operator needed to intervene before the seals failed and it was no longer safe to open or close the trap doors.

Before the valves could be replaced, however, the operator needed to isolate the pipelines and connect them to a bypass system that would allow service to continue to three downstream gas plants.

After evaluating a variety of methods used to isolate pipelines during repairs and maintenance, the operator chose a non-intrusive isolation combined with a hot tap and bypass solution, provided by global pipeline solutions provider T.D. Williamson (TDW). For the full case study, please click here: https://hubs.ly/H08XjHM0

Rather than resorting to blow-down – which would have been expensive and time-consuming, especially considering the 75 bar (1100 psi) of natural gas inside the pipelines – TDW provided an alternative solution that combined hot tapping and its 24-inch SmartPlug ® non-intrusive isolation system for pressurized pipelines. **This was the first time the two technologies had been used together onshore in the lower 48 states.** It was also the first time that TDW pigged a SmartPlug in and out of an autolauncher; although the autolauncher is designed to pig intelligent tools, it had been primarily used to allow multiple urethane pigs to be loaded at one time and released at predetermined intervals for the liquids management program.

Because the SmartPlug tool has bi-directional capabilities, it was used to isolate both the launcher and receiver sides. TDW also employed its proprietary SmartTrack™ communication equipment to track and monitor the SmartPlug tool during the pigging and pipeline isolation processes. In addition, TDW installed fittings to enable a permanent bypass between the two pipelines and a connection to a third 16-inch pipeline from the metering station.

“The two valves that were replaced were significantly leaking to the point that additional mitigations (valve sealant, air mover, venting) were required to insert the SmartPlug into the launcher and receiver,” Project Engineer Patrick Moran said.

“The innovative combination of TDW products and services enabled the client to avoid costly alternatives, such as blowing down the system, and to keep downstream customers online, without production delays,” Moran added.

About T.D. Williamson
Drawing upon a 96-year history of industry leadership, TDW delivers a comprehensive portfolio of safe pipeline system solutions for onshore and offshore applications, including advanced isolation and repair, integrated pigging, and integrity assessment solutions.
www.tdwilliamson.com

Resources: https://hubs.ly/H08XjHM0

For further information or imagery, contact:
Corporate Communications
T.D. Williamson
Tulsa, Oklahoma, U.S.A
Phone: 918-447-5000
Email: corporate-communications@tdwilliamson.com
Web: www.tdwilliamson.com

###