

features like road and river crossings, block valves etc. are readily recognizable both audibly and visually from the outputs. The equipment therefore is deliberately designed to provide both an audible output to yield suitable pig movement information for tracking purposes.

We claim:

1. A method for tracking the movement of a pig along a length of pipeline from a first point to a second point spaced a substantial distance from the first point, the length of pipeline containing a number of internal features which are spaced along the length of pipeline at known locations between the first and second points and with which the pig sequentially makes an impact during the movement of the pig along the pipeline so as to generate a series of vibrational signals which correspond to the individual impacts and which are transmitted along the length of pipeline to the second point, the method comprising coupling to the wall of the pipeline at the second point a sensor for sensing the presence of any vibrational signal transmitted along the pipeline to the second point and producing an electrical output proportional to the respective vibrational signal, sensing a said vibrational signal and producing a corresponding said electrical output, and correlating the output produced with the respective internal feature with which

the pig has made impact so as to estimate the position of the pig within the length of pipeline at any time.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the electrical output is translated into an audible output which is correlated with the internal feature with which the pig has made the impact.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the electrical output is translated into a visual output which is correlated with the internal feature with which the pig has made the impact.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2 in which the audible output is recorded.

5. A method as claimed in claim 3 in which the visual output is recorded.

6. A method as claimed in claim 2 in which the electrical output is filtered before translation to filter out frequencies lying outside the frequency band 8 Hz to 1560 Hz.

7. A method as claimed in claim 3 in which the electrical output is filtered before translation to filter out frequencies lying outside the frequency band 8 Hz to 1560 Hz.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the vibrational signals are detected and the electrical output produced by means of a geophone which is coupled to the external wall of the pipeline at the second point in the pipeline length.

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