



PROCESS
INDUSTRY
PRACTICES

May 2024

Pipeline Systems

PLE00009
Potholing Guidelines

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PURPOSE AND USE OF PROCESS INDUSTRY PRACTICES

This Practice has been prepared by harmonizing technical requirements from existing standards of major industrial operators, contractors, and standards development organizations. While this Practice is intended to incorporate the majority of requirements, individual applications may have requirements which take precedence over this Practice. Determinations concerning fitness for purpose or application of this Practice to specific project or engineering situations should not be made solely on information contained in this Practice. All Practices are intended to be consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Should this Practice conflict with applicable laws or regulations, such laws or regulations must be followed. Consult an appropriate professional before applying or acting on any material contained in or suggested by this Practice.

Use of trade names should not be viewed as an expression of preference. Other brands having the same specifications are equally correct and may be substituted for those named.

This Practice is subject to revision at any time. For more information refer to PIP ADG001, *Specification for Developing Practices*.

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1. Scope

The purpose of this guideline is to describe when and why potholing is utilized for construction and design activities, potholing methods, advantages and disadvantages of the methods included, and one-call resources.

Potholing may be utilized, as required and described herein, to prevent excavation damage to underground utilities and to avoid unknown foreign utilities.

2. References

Applicable parts of the following Practices and industry codes and standards shall be considered an integral part of this Practice. The edition in effect on the date of contract award shall be used, except as otherwise noted. Short titles are used herein where appropriate. Code section references below are specific to the code editions in effect at the issuance of this Practice.

2.1 Process Industry Practices (PIP)

- PIP CVS02100 - *Site Preparation, Excavation, and Backfill Specification*

2.2 Industry Codes and Standards

- 811
 - One Call
- American Petroleum Institute (API)
 - *API RP 1166 - Excavation Monitoring and Observation*
 - *API RP 1172 - Recommended Practice for Construction Parallel to Existing Underground Transmission Pipelines*
- American Public Works Association
 - *Construction Inspection Manual*
- CFR (Code of Federal Regulations)
 - 29 CFR, Subtitle B, Chapter XVII, Part 1926 - *Safety and Health Regulations for Construction*
 - 49 CFR, Subtitle B, Chapter I, Subchapter D, Part 196 - *Damage Prevention Requirements, PHMSA Excavation Safety*
- Common Ground Alliance (CGA)
 - *Best Practices*