



Pipeline Construction Terminology

A.R.O.

Abrasion Resistant Overlay, tough outer layer that is resistant to impact, gouge, abrasion and penetration commonly used for bores

Back End

Crews behind welding crew comprised of pipe gang and firing line

Bead

1st pass of weld also known as the root pass

Bell hole

A ditch area made wide through proper slope for safe entry into excavation where hands enter and work during tie in

Berm

Dirt or other earth material positioned by machine to contain fluids or constructed to divert water away from working area, may be used along trench to reduce exposure to vehicles

Blast Mat

Assembled chain of tires connected by chain or bolt that are placed over blast area being worked to reduce exposure of flying debris

Blow Down

A release of gas, air, or water from a compressed loaded pipe section, seen during hydro test completion and to isolate sections of live lines

Boom

Pipe layer also known as a side boom tractor, very significant to pipeline construction and maintenance

Bottle Neck

Area of pipeline right-of-way where the width of working space is reduced

Break Over

Point where equipment approaches and passes down peak of hill or mountain, also used to describe point for side boom position in relation to adjusting pipe in clamps during tie in process on big inch pipe

Buffing

Smoothing the surface of a bevel by use of an abrasive or wire wheel

Bull Horns

Parted blow off stacks in stations, also tie off points for load securement on side booms

CAD Weld

Metal fusion of test leads for cathodic protection to pipe cathode and casing

Cap

Last top pass of weld

Charge

A designated form of explosive that is placed accordingly to break up rock for pipeline installation

Cherry Picker

Crane mounted usually on mechanics rig

Choker

Used to encircle the pipe by bringing one end through an open loop on the other end around the pipe leaving other end available to hook, used to lift and pull

Clam Bucket

Used to remove rocks and debris from trench prior to lowering in of pipe, preferred method when reducing contact with trench wall to sustain trench integrity

Coating

Product chosen by client that is applied by spray or brush to protect welded area and butt up to factory installed coating on remainder of main line, also used in repair of minor coating defects and holidays

Come a Part

Someone who has lost the ability to effectively communicate with another person, an expression to describe a break down in patience in a highly upset individual

Cookie Cutter

A transitional piece used to make transition from drill pipe to bore pipe (dummy pipe), may be seen on laser guided track bores.

Core Log

Mesh roll stuffed with absorbent material such as straw and used to complete environmental containment along areas of right-of-way, to be moved by hand and not run over

Cold Wrap

Tape type pipeline protectant that serves same purpose as coating although does not carry same temperature application requirements

Combo

A sag, over bend, side bend or point of intersect (PI) in close proximity

Coming Inside

When work is on approach to a road, shu fly, or land mark known on project, technically should go with the direction of product flow, may also be defined by direction of construction, upstream side

Coupons

Sections of cut pipe used to practice welding, circular or egg shape pieces cut out of joint, magnetic device inserted into the ground during test lead installation that can receive product flow data

Cradle

Cable slings with hard rubber rollers used to support pipe and protect coating during the lowering in process

Crew

Assembled group of field workers usually assigned to one specific task, subject to change depending on operation factors and schedule

Cross Clutch

Tracking down hill, to prevent free wheel on one side, note-always turn to spoil pile if possible in the event control of boom is compromised

Crotch

"V" shape assembly of skids to hold section or joint of pipe in place

Crumbing

Removal of debris and rocks from ditch (trench) to maintain pipeline coating and structure integrity

Cutter/Cutting Bit

Front of auger on road bore or special reamer used for cutting bore hole hard material on horizontal directional drilling (HDD)

Deadman

I beam or pup that is positioned into the ground for cradle bore to pull on by cable and winch

Dog Leg

Where the lay of the right-of-way has caused for a slight bend in the straight mainline section

Downstream

Direction of flow for product that pipeline will carry following completion of construction

Drag Up

When a hand quits

Drag up tank

Fuel tank installed in the back of pick-up trucks or in the deck of welder rig, may become important in areas of frost law to keep iron fueled

Drip Tank

Tank that may be custom built or capped joint of pipe with a smaller diameter pipe welded to it to receive liquids gathered in launcher or receiver from P.I.G. or liquids from a nearby scrubber tank

Dummy Pipe

Joints of pipe that are reused multiple of times for boring, usually seen on road bores and used to hold auger and make initial entry

Egging

When pipe joint roundness is compromised during bending or other applications

Fast Line

3" fused water line inserted into bore section for buoyancy control when pulling through section

Float

A flatbed trailer

Flume Pipe

Pipe joints used to maintain flow of water in ditches and offer support to bridging

Flyrock

Flying debris from blasting area after controlled blast takes place

Foreign Line

Another pipeline in the path of construction that may belong to different company, need to know exact location, pressure, product information, representative for utility, etc. if being worked next to or crossed

Foreman

Designated competent person for crew, boss of field crew who should receive all information pertaining to crew, tasks to be designated from foreman to crew only

Front End

Crew's firing line forward

Going Away Side

When work is moving away from road, access road, or land mark known on project, technically should go with the direction of product flow, may also be defined by direction of construction

Goose

Internal clamp used by welders that is powered by hydraulics to line up pipe for weld on pipe gang

Green Hand

New worker to pipeline construction with less than 3 months experience

Hand

Pipeline field worker

Hot Lines

Pipelines under pressure, loaded lines

Holiday

Irregular showing of metal from possible coating loss or damage that may begin pitting

Hot Dope

Old material for coating pipelines comprised of heated coal tar pitch / hot tar

Hot Pass

Pass following bead where filler is applied

Hot Tap

The dangerous task of tapping into a loaded line for tie in

Hustle Skids

Work put in my hand to unload, place, remove, or assemble skids for crotch or slide

Iron

Heavy operating equipment used for pipeline construction

In Stream Support (ISS)

Support in middle of bridge with flume pipe and matting

Jeep

Device used multiple of times on same sections prior to lowering in that uses electrical current to detect holidays or coating loss

Jet Line

A cable used to pull a fast line through bore section of pipe on HDD

Joint

A length of pipe

Junk Weld

Also known as a temporary weld made on dummy pipe that is not tested and serves little purpose other than connecting joints of dummy pipe

Key In

To make mats level with terrain or provide support in declining terrain to support bridging for level approach

Kick Off

Where the start of the mainline construction begins

Kicker Line

Line found near front of launcher/receiver that applies product to back of P.I.G. by valve mimic to create differential pressure and launch P.I.G. into mainline pipeline to work and can also be used to loop pressure in front of P.I.G to reduce resistance to receive P.I.G. in receiver

Line Pipe

The mainline pipe

Loop

A section of pipe that runs parallel

Launcher

Extension of mainline equipped with a series of valves and kicker line to push P.I.G into pipeline by creating differential pressure from the front of the P.I.G. to the back possible by kicker line

Lay Down Yard

Temporary operating yard for pipeline construction operations and equipment storage

Low boy

Trailer used to haul equipment, detaches from truck and is lowered to pick up or drop off equipment

Mandrel

Inner die inside of bending machine that puts pressure on inside wall to prevent egging

Mud Board

A wooden platform used by welders to lay on that helps keep above wet or rough ground during welding

Night Cap

Cap made up of metal, cloth, rubber, plastic or wood placed on the open end of pipe to reduce introduction of foreign debris inside pipe

OHP

Overhead power

Over Bend

Bend in pipe that is high in or near the middle of joint

Padding

Fine grain material that could be made by OZZIE padders, Outlaw & ALLU grinder and or shaker buckets, or that is used as the first layer of backfill to provide an underbelly support for pipe and coating protection before original backfill is installed

Pass

A weld all the way around pipe diameter

Peat Bog

Damp saturated material made up of partially decayed vegetation

Pendulum Effect

Weight distribution caused by load and cable free movement in relation to center of gravity when a joint or pup is being carried up or down an incline or decline by a side boom, effect to increase with longer arm (stick)

Pete

Peterbilt truck

P.I.

Point of intersect where the direction of the pipeline changes and is usually identified by lathe or wooden stake in the ground

P.I.G

Pipeline Integrity Gauge that comes in multiple sizes and purposes and is used to clean, detect, and inspect inside of pipeline for debris, excess fluid, or anomalies

Popsicle Sticks

Placed in ground to identify location of bends in relation to joints and bending information that is left by designated bending engineer for the bending crew

Pull Head

A reinforced cap equipped with a towing eye that is welded to a section of pipe to be pulled, used on HDD, road bores, and water body crossings

Pup

Short length of pipe

Quad

A tractor with welding machines mounted to it

Reach Rod

Extended rod with control for mandrel that is seen coming out of the bending machine

Reamer

A specially designed cutting head attached to drill pipe to open bore following pilot hole and will increase in diameter following successful pass to meet desired diameter for that bore, may be used as a swab in harder material

Receiver

Extension off of mainline that is equipped with a series of valves designed to bring in P.I.G. through use of differential pressure

Reject

A weld that has been tested and has not met requirements for desired integrity and strength

Ripper

A vertical curved tooth or teeth located on the back of a dozer that is hydraulically powered and designed to break up hard ground usually before ditching takes place

Roach

Mound of dirt left over the pipeline to settle evenly with time

Rollin

Used to identify when a delivery of material or equipment is on its way, may also be used to express excessive speed during flagging operations

Roping

When a section of pipe is lifted by side booms creating a slight arch in order to insert the pipe at the desired angle required for bore hole

ROW

Pipeline right-of-way

Safety Fuse

A black powder fuse designed to burn inside a protective casing to ignite explosives

Sag

A low bend in the pipe in or near the middle, used to contour pipe to terrain

Scrubber

A tank installed that may work on gravity drop out or filters to filter product of condensate transported through pipeline

Shaker Bucket

Outlaw bucket with meshed bottom to filter through fine grain dirt for backfill, seen commonly on tie in's and congested areas

Shoot a Bend

Degrees of a bend calculated with a transit

Shu Fly

Access road leading to pipeline right-of-way

Side Bend

A sideward bend on the pipe to direct it to a desired direction

Side Stepping

Installation of steps for ingress and egress in excavated area

Silkscreen

Used to filter sediment and debris out of water by passing it through a mesh screen

Sissy Bar

A flat piece of metal welded to teeth on a bucket for intended safe digging, required for multiple gas companies and ground disturbance programs

Skid

42" in length 4" tall 6" wide hard wood used to hold pipe in desired position, usually identified as cribbing outside of pipeline industry

Skid Hustler

Custom machine used on right-of-way to collect skids and assemble for pick up

Slide

A simple assembly of skids to raise joint off of ground, usually seen with a crotch when stringing joints, etc.

Sling

Loop ended synthetic line or cable used for lifting, will have metal tag for cable or sewn patch for synthetic line to identify lifting capabilities

Snoopy

A hand made scooter cycle powered by a small engine designed to be inserted into pipe section and carry rope or jet line from one side to another, seen and used on HDD

Soft Touch

To track up hill, up a steep incline and not to steer tractor to fast

Spread Boss

Designated Superintendent of project, top person for contractor day to day field operations

Spacers

Defines material that separates mainline pipeline from casing, seen on river crossings or road bores and can be made from multiple of approved materials

Spoil Pile

Material that is dug from ditch and piled on right-of-way makes up spoil pile

Spoon

A modified garden tool with a modified long handle used to reach and pull out debris from trench just before or during lowering in of section

Spotter

A hand trained to help drivers and operators by watch and guide of vehicles and equipment while crossing under overhead power lines, backing up, passing on R.O.W., or digging in a sensitive/congested area

Spread

The entire group of pipeline workers who are on the project working for the contractor

Stabber

Hand who helps line up pipe joints for welding

Stick

Expression used to identify arm of excavator or side boom

Straw Boss

Foreman go to person, second in charge on crew

Swamper

Oiler for equipment

Tack Rig

Welding tractor, may also be used to carry welding huts

Tag Line

Rope or sling tied around or attached to equipment or pipe to assist in control for loading, unloading, transporting, and control to reduce swinging and damage to personnel and product, consider acceptable level of risk with use

Tail Ditch

Gradual ramp usually width of bucket that dug it and is left at the end of a dug trench, tail ditch and beginnings of bell hole before departure are usually a sign of respect for next crew to come, often crew will want and should dig their own bell hole for preferred integrity

Travel Lane

Where equipment and vehicles move up and down a segment of pipeline right of way, should always be left open or available to clear immediately in event of emergency

Trench breaker

Foam walls sprayed into ditch to reduce erosion around pipe and to help maintain integrity of ditch backfill on inclines or mountain/hill approach and descend, may also be made of sand bags

Utility

Communication line, gas line, oil line, electrical line, water line, sewer line, etc.

Walking Through Itself

Side boom becoming light on front end with the potential to tip back, concern when working in extreme incline

Water Breaker

Berms or shallow trenches constructed across right-of-way at an angle to divert water to edge or off right of way, helps with erosion mitigation and right-of-way conditions

Whalers

Top side support for sheet pile installed comprised of cut to fit I beams that are bolted to the vertically placed sheet pile

Working Side

The side of the pipeline right-of-way where equipment and vehicles travel

Worm

Modified pup with round ends pulled through bore hole and used to slick, verify bore hole passage, and clear out gouge potential on HDD's

Yoyo

A bucket used on a drag line to get to the desired depth of ditch being dug, commonly used at rivers