

Sahara[®] Leak Detection

Tethered inline leak detection for accurate location of leaks and gas pockets

Sahara Technology

The Sahara platform is a tethered leak detection tool used to locate leaks and gas pockets in pressurized pipelines. The tool allows the operator close control and sensitivity during inspections with no disruption to regular pipeline service. The acoustic sensor is highly sensitive and is able to locate 'pinhole' sized leaks.

Leak detection surveys using the tool are completed while the pipeline remains in service by inserting the sensor into a live pipeline through a tap. A small parachute uses the flow of water to draw the sensor through the pipeline while it remains tethered to the surface. This allows for real-time results and maximum control; the tool can be moved back and forth using a winch system to confirm suspected leaks. Sahara leak detection is tracked above ground using sensors, which also allows for the precise marking of leaks.

Inspection Benefits

- Close operator control allows for real-time verification of leaks
- No disruption to regular pipeline service
- Reported accuracy rate of approximately 99 percent
- Highly sensitive acoustic sensor that can locate very small leaks (as small as 0.005 gal/min in optimal operating conditions)
- Inline video allows for pipeline mapping and inspection of live pipeline conditions
- Typical location accuracy within 1.5-feet

