

# **Flow Assurance**



### **Code and Standard**

	DNV-OSS-301 Certification and Verification of Pipelines
	DNV-OS-F101 Submarine Pipeline Systems
	DNV-RP-D101 Structural Analysis of Piping Systems
	DNV-RP-F101 Corroded Pipelines
	DNV-RP-F102 Pipeline Field Joint Coating and Field Repair of Line pipe Coating
	DNV-RP-F103 Cathodic Protection of Submarine Pipelines by Galvanic Anodes
	DNV-RP-F105 Free Spanning Pipelines
	DNV-RP-F106 Factory Applied External Pipeline Coatings for Corrosion Control
Pipeline	DNV-RP-F107 Risk Assessment of Pipeline Protection
	DNV-RP-F108 Fracture Control for Pipeline Installation Methods Introducing Cyclic Plastic Strain
	DNV-RP-F109 On-Bottom Stability Design of Submarine Pipelines
	DNV-RP-F110 Global Buckling of Submarine Pipelines Structural Design due to HP/HT
	DNV-RP-F111 Interference Between Trawl Gear and Pipelines
	DNV-RP-F113 Pipeline Subsea Repair
	DNV-RP-F116 Integrity Management of Submarine Pipeline Systems
	DNV-RP-F118 Pipe Girth Weld System Qualification and Project Specific Procedure Validation
	DNV-RP-O501 Erosive Wear in Piping Systems
	DNV-OSS-302 Offshore Riser Systems
	DNV-OS-F201 Dynamic Risers
	DNV-RP-F201 Design of Titanium Risers
Riser	DNV-RP-F202 Composite Risers
	DNV-RP-F203 Riser Interference
	DNV-RP-F204 Riser Fatigue
	DNV-RP-F206 Riser Integrity Management
	DNV-DSS-314 Verification of Hydrocarbon Refining and Petrochemical Facilities
Oil and Gas Processing	DNV-OSS-307 Verification of Process Facilities
Systems	DNV-OS-E201 Oil and Gas Processing Systems
	DNV-RP-F301 Subsea Separator Structural Design



#### **Pipeline Design Flowchart**



#### Flow Assurance: Definition

- Ensuring successful and economical flow of hydrocarbon stream from reservoir to the point of processing → Guarantee the flow
- Encompassing many discrete and specialized subjects, bridging across the engineering disciplines
- Involves from pre-FEED to detailed design, and beyond the operation
- Two main topics
  - : Network modelling and transient multiphase flow simulation
  - : Handling solid deposition including hydrate, wax, asphaltene, etc



#### Flow Assurance in Project life cycle



#### Flow Assurance in offshore developments

- FA becomes "important" more than every before
  - Deep waters
  - Longer tiebacks
  - Challenging reservoir characteristics
- FA is making sure a system is correctly sized and specified to achieve deliverability, integrity, and controllability



#### Role of Flow Assurance

- Deliverability achieving production rate (boosting/lifting/sizing)
- Integrity never fail (corrosion/erosion)
- Controllability stable and flexible operation
- Uninterrupted production prevent hydrates/wax/asphaltene
- Bridge between subsurface (reservoir) and surface (production or downstream)

: FA balances the inputs from reservoir with the demands and constraints from downstream

#### Flow Assurance and Interactions



#### FA: Fluid Related Issues



- May have none, may have several, may have all !!
- FA risks from industry: Hydrate >> Wax >> Asphaltene

#### FA: Design Related Issues

Pipeline sizing pressure loss vs slugging



#### **Choke design**

to minimize pressure loss and erosion



Design of Chemical Injection Systems (transfer line sizing) to minimize risk of hydrates,

scale, corrosion etc.



C-factors, Flare capacity, Surge volume, Cooldown times, Liquid management, Pigging Depressurization, Gas lift system, etc

> Flow assurance is to take precautions to **Ensure Deliverability** and Operability

#### Thermal Insulation Design

to keep fluids warm and minimize risk of hydrates and wax



#### **Erosion analysis**

Erosion wear in complex geometries



#### Fluid characterization

- Understanding fluid phase behavior provides a roadmap for all subsequent analysis
- Fluid characterization is predicting accurate fluid properties, which is necessary for the specification of all materials and equipment in system
- If fluid characterization and properties prediction is done poorly, the system may not operate as predicted, or may be under- or over- sized.



#### Phase behavior and Operating regions

- A PT operating envelope can be developed from the fluid behavior characteristics
- This envelope provides a good visual indication of operating limits
  - : Hydrate will form at P & T to the left of the curve
  - : Wax will form at P & T to the left of the curve

etc



### Fluid hydraulics

- Primarily concerned with "pressure drop" in the system
  - Influence size of equipment
  - Recovery from the reservoir
- Key aspect in understanding single phase and multiphase flow
  - Single phase flow is well understood
  - Multiphase flow is becoming better-defined, especially "slug flow"
- Essentially need to balance:
  - Flowrate
  - Required arrival pressure (separation train, gas processing units, etc)
  - Available inlet pressure (reservoir, subsea production system, etc)
  - Flowline inner diameter
  - Surge volume analysis for slug catcher design

#### Flow regime for horizontal and vertical flow

- Flow regime is a key factor in many aspects of FA analysis
  - : Pressure drop, operability, dynamic behavior
  - : Heat transfer
  - : Chemical distribution
  - : Hydrate/wax forming potential



#### Flow regime map

- Depict the transitions between the flow patterns.
- The superficial gas velocity (V<sub>sg</sub>) is on the X-axis and the superficial liquid velocity (V<sub>sl</sub>) is on the Y-axis.
- The flow pattern is also dependent on:
- the angle of inclination,
- pipe diameter,
- fluid composition,
- pressure and temperature.



#### Liquid holdup

- Liquid holdup is the amount of liquid contained in a multi phase pipeline at particular flow conditions.
- The liquid phase is normally carried though the line by drag forces exerted by the gas phase.
- The holdup at a particular time will be produced as a liquid slug when the line is pigged. These aspects affect slug catcher sizing and peak onshore liquid processing requirements

![](_page_16_Picture_4.jpeg)

## Slugging

- Slugging
  - : Periods of low flow followed by periods of high flow (liquid bomb)
  - : Occurs in multiphase flowlines at low gas velocities
  - : Causes
    - Low fluid velocity
    - Seabed bathymetry
    - Riser type
- Hydrodynamic
  - : High frequency
  - : Minimal facilities impact
- Terrain
  - : High liquid/gas flowrates
  - : Topsides concern
  - : Riser fatigue concern

![](_page_17_Figure_15.jpeg)

Time (hours)

#### Slug flow simulations

- Lazy-S is a slug generator
- Prevention
  - : Incrase gas flowrate
  - : control separator pressure
  - : Gas lift

![](_page_18_Figure_6.jpeg)

### Multiphase flow applications

- Hydraulics
  - : Line sizing
  - : Liquid holdup
  - : Slugging / surge volume
  - : Erosion velocity Maximum from C-factor, Minimum from CI
  - : Bigger is not better
    - + Higher throughput
    - + Lower erosion velocities
    - Increased slugging tendency
    - Increased liquid holdup in pipeline

#### Line sizing checklist

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Multiphase flow applications

- Thermal design
  - : Sometimes try to keep fluids hot
    - avoid hydrate formation
    - avoid wax deposition
    - how to? passive heating, active heating
  - : Or sometimes try to cool fluids down
    - reduce corrosion
    - manage maximum material temperature limits
    - how to? Subsea heat exchangers, ensure exposed piping

![](_page_21_Picture_10.jpeg)

Single layer

![](_page_21_Picture_12.jpeg)

Multi layer

![](_page_21_Picture_14.jpeg)

#### Role of Flow Assurance in CCS project

- Line sizing initial inputs for the cost estimation
- Normal operational conditions
- Transient operational conditions
  - : Depressurization
  - : Initial pressurization
- Any other suggestions for
  - : Hydrate management
  - : Pigging operations, air quality

![](_page_22_Figure_9.jpeg)

### FA design for CCS project

- Initial line sizing
  - : Trunkline system
  - : Platform/subsea manifold
  - : Infield system
  - : Well tubing requirements
- Normal operation condition
  - : Winter/Summer operation
- Transient operation
  - : Shutdown and restart JT cooling
  - : Depressurization
  - : CO2 removal pigging
  - : Initial pressurization
  - : Pressure surge analysis

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## Thank you