

coupon to the tolerance detailed in the weld procedure and complete the weld. Inspection of the coupon was restricted so a special variation of Phased Array had been agreed. This is a very rare inspection technique and was in addition to standard NDT.

After acceptance of the weld, the reinforcement sleeve was replaced with a new section of the same material and welded in situ.



Every step of this process was mocked up and proven prior to being accepted at PMC's depot in Ambergate.

CEME Emergency call

Whilst on site conducting this repair, a painting contractor noticed a leak and detected gas onsite. The stem seal was leaking on a valve at the bottom end of the site. An emergency NRO was put in place to isolate the valve. PMC and East Area Ops worked together with a civils contractor to build a temporary roadway. The ground had to be vac ex'd, the gearbox was removed along with the vent and sealant lines. The stem seal was lapped cleaned up, rebuilt and re-installed.

Another CEME call out responded to with a cut out and replace and installation of a 125 metre bypass

This emergency defect repair consisted of a double stopple, cut out and replacement of an 8" HP pipeline operating at 15Bar.

The pipeline affects the supply of gas to over 32,000 properties over a large area around Colchester.

As soon as the customer had prepared the site, PMC mobilised.



Project news

We welded 10 connections and fitted an epoxy sleeve after a girth weld failed a Phased Array (see picture right).

Once the connections were in place, PMC and the customer worked together to install the bypass pipework. The bypass needed to be in excess of 125 metres long to prevent the excavations being excessive and, also, to confirm to GS6 Electric Permit, so all lifting operations could take place away from the cables.

Once the bypass was installed, tested and commissioned, the stopples were deployed.

The customer scanned the defective pipework and sent the drawings over to PMC. We manufactured the replacement pipe in Ambergate, followed by a 24 hour pressure test.

PMC and the customer laid the new pipe next to the old pipe so that it is in position and can be fitted immediately after the cut out. After the pipe had been laid in place, PMC use the cold cut machine to start the cut out of the pipe. The old pipe was cut in three places to remove it. The defect is then discovered on a valve fitting.

PMC welders Louis and Luke Watson weld the pipe in place and it is x'ray'd and tested.

This was an extensive project, the team consisted of Tony Byard (on-site supervisor), Martyn Freeman, Alan Dales, Luke Feeney, Martin Isaacs, Louis Watson, Liam Watson and Chris Burnham.

