SUN PIPELINE SOLUTIONS SINCE 1976

PIPELINE PIG MAINTENANCE

CLEANING THE PIG:

To extend the life of a S.U.N. pig, it is recommended that the pig be cleaned after a run. Storing a pig with product residue left on the pig promotes the deterioration of the urethane when the pig is stored for long periods of time. The pig can be cleaned with a power-washer and water, and does not need to be disassembled for cleaning.

ENVIROMENTAL FACTORS:

Long-term exposure to sunshine, temperature extremes (both heat and cold), and humidity will cause deterioration in the urethane. If the pig is to be stored for long periods of time, it is best to store it in a building or in a covered location, to limit harsh environmental exposure.

CUP WEAR INSPECTION:

To determine if a cup, or a set of cups, needs to be replaced, measure across the diameter of the cup's trailing edge. If the measurement is less than one percent (1%) of the oversize of the pipeline I.D. that it is used in, the cup should be replaced.
Another method of determining if a scraper cups need to be replaced is to measure the trailing edges of the cups at various points around the circumference. If the measurements between the cups vary by fifty percent (50%) or more, the cups should be replaced. This method of inspection is best applied when one or more cups have been changed out from the original set due to damage.

Uneven wear on one side of a cup is also an indication that the cup should be replaced. This type of wear is usually caused by the pig running nose down during its run due to accumulation of debris in front of the pig. This problem can usually be corrected by drilling by-pass holes in any or all of the seals. The number of holes, the size of the holes, are a matter of experimentation. Drilling the by-pass holes will change the pig from a pushed weight to a pulled weight.

DISC WEAR INSPECTION:

Disc's should be inspected for splits, cracks, or tears in the urethane material. If any of these aforementioned abnormalities exist discard/replace the disc. Once a disc has been run through a pipeline it will wear the sealing edge of the disc to a bevel. Once the beveled area exceeds 50% of the thickness of the disc it should be removed from the pig and turned over so the sharp edge is forward lengthening the life span of the disc. Disc's are bi-directional by nature and turning the disc over you gain a new sharp edge for debris removal. If a disc is left on long term and has worn to nominal pipeline ID it is also time to discard/replace.