

Don't Be Fooled By A Price Sheet –

How To Determine What You Will Really Pay To Find Your Non-Surfacing Leaks

Scenario: 25 mile Pipeline; 10" Pipe; Valves every 5 miles

General Contractor (GC) – includes Excavation Crew with Equipment and Welder with Equipment	Hydro-Test Contractor with Equipment (HT)	Freeze Plug Contractor with Nitrogen (FP)	SF ₆ LD Crew with Equipment (SF ₆)
\$6,500 per day	\$1,500 per day	\$10,000 per day	\$1,250 per day

Option 1: Isolation and Excavation

Option 2: SF₆ Leak Detection

Step	Contractors Involved	Projected Cost	Step	Contractors Involved	Projected Cost
Day 1 (Fill)					
◆ Fill Pipeline	HT	\$1,500	◆ Fill Pipeline	HT	\$1,500
	GC	\$6,500	◆ Inject SF ₆ (cost of Tracer Gas added to SF ₆ crew cost)	GC	\$6,500
				SF ₆	\$4,250
Day 1 Sub-Total			Day 1 Sub-Total		
\$8,000			\$12,250		
Day 2 (Pressure Up and Isolate)					
◆ Pressure up	HT	\$1,500	◆ Pressure up	HT	\$1,500
◆ Isolate suspicious section(s) by closing valves (objective is to narrow down to smallest segments possible)	GC	\$6,500	◆ Isolate suspicious section(s) by closing valves (objective is to narrow down to smallest segments possible)	GC	\$6,500
				SF ₆	\$1,250
Day 2 Sub-Total			Day 2 Sub-Total		
\$8,000			\$9,250		
Day 3 (Continue Isolation)					
◆ Excavate, cut and insert Freeze Plug to divide five mile section into two 2 1/2 mile sections	HT	\$1,500	◆ Probe (GC) and perform SF ₆ Leak Detection (SF ₆) on suspected 5 mile section	HT	\$1,500
◆ Pressure up sections to see if suspicious section isolated	GC	\$6,500		GC	\$6,500
	FP	\$10,000		SF ₆	\$1,250
Day 3 Sub-Total			Day 3 Sub-Total		
\$18,000			\$9,250		
Day 4 (Continue Isolation)					
◆ Excavate, cut and insert Freeze Plug to divide each 2 1/2 mile section into two 1 1/4 mile sections	HT	\$1,500	◆ Strip pipeline at specified leak location	HT	\$1,500
◆ Pressure up sections to see if suspicious section isolated	GC	\$6,500	◆ Repair leak and pressure up to verify that it passes Hydro-Test	GC	\$6,500
	FP	\$10,000		SF ₆	\$1,250
Day 4 Sub-Total			Day 4 Sub-Total		
\$18,000			\$9,250		
Day 5 (Continue Isolation)					
◆ Excavate, cut and insert Freeze Plug to divide each 1 1/4 mile section into two 5/8 mile sections	HT	\$1,500	** For 87% of SF₆ projects performed on a pipeline matching the one in this scenario, ALL leaks would be found in first two days of leak detection. Therefore, the total projected days and cost would not increase.		
◆ Pressure up sections to see if suspicious section isolated	GC	\$6,500			
	FP	\$10,000			
Day 5 Sub-Total			Projected Total Cost		
\$18,000			\$40,000 **		
Day 6 (Continue Isolation)					
◆ Excavate, cut and insert Freeze Plug to divide each 5/8 mile section into two 5/16 mile sections	HT	\$1,500			
◆ Pressure up sections to see if suspicious section isolated	GC	\$6,500			
	FP	\$10,000			
Day 6 Sub-Total					
\$18,000					
Day 7 (Continue Isolation)					
◆ Excavate, cut and insert Freeze Plug to divide each 5/16 mile section into two 5/32 mile sections	HT	\$1,500			
◆ Pressure up sections to see if suspicious section isolated	GC	\$6,500			
	FP	\$10,000			
Day 7 Sub-Total					
\$18,000					
Day 8 (Find/Repair Leak)					
◆ Strip suspicious section to look for non-surfacing leak(s)	HT	\$1,500			
◆ If leak found, repair leak and pressure up to verify that it passes Hydro-Test	GC	\$6,500			
Day 8 Sub-Total					
\$8,000					
Projected Total Cost			\$114,000 *		

* Assumes that the leak is found in first stripped section and it was the only leak present in the five mile section. If additional leaks were present, the total projected days and cost would increase.

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