

## **NYSEARCH Conducts Collaborative Demonstration with PHMSA/OPS and Industry Steering Committee at NYSEARCH/NGA Test Bed in Johnson City**

As part of an existing contract managed by NYSEARCH for PHMSA/OPS, NYSEARCH was asked to add a task to manage and host a collaborative demonstration of Guided Wave technology vendors at its test bed in Johnson City, NY. The NYSEARCH/NGA test bed was built in 2005 and has had many tests conducted there since its completion in September 2005. NYSEG is the host utility and NGA has a ten-year lease with NYSEG to use the property where the test bed is set up.

The July 17 – 18 demonstration is an activity that PHMSA/OPS sought as a demonstration of the joint R & D activities for an important potential area for pipeline inspection. Ultrasonic guided wave is a technology that has been offered commercially and used extensively particularly for liquid lines. However, NYSEARCH/NGA learned through cooperative field testing in 2003 that for some important applications such as cased crossings, the technology needed additional development and validation. In 2004, NYSEARCH approved such work and gained the partnership of PHMSA/OPS. Research & Development by TWI/FBS over the last (15) months has resulted in several advances as well as field tests at the test bed and on live jobs. To add to this effort, the NGA DA Working Group sought demonstration of other similar guided wave technologies at the test bed. One such demonstration was held in May. Given this background and activity, PHMSA/OPS asked NYSEARCH to lead an effort with multiple vendors and directed NYSEARCH to lead a PHMSA Steering Committee for this effort.

The Steering Committee has worked together to understand the protocols and options for the Collaborative demonstration and has endorsed a NYSEARCH test plan. NYSEARCH has worked with the NGA DA Working group over the last several months on issues related to Guided Wave technologies.

The July demonstration will involve (8) participants from PHMSA/OPS and parties that they have contacted in industry and (5) – (10) NGA DA Working Group representatives.

This activity is seen by PHMSA/OPS not only as an R & D showcase but also a means for improving the understanding of what information should be exchanged between operators and guided wave contractors. The guided wave contractors who are participating in the test are TWI/FBS, Structural Integrity and Base Line Data.