pipeline sections **820** that, in turn, correspond to either unchanged PIPS codes for the section **800**, or new or changed PIPS codes **810**.

[**0071**] The sample tabulation shown in **FIG. 11** depicts pipeline information that would be compiled by PIPS and be available for retrieval by authorized personnel and agencies, or the like. For each uniquely identified pipeline segment, corresponding to a row in the table, it should be obvious that a panoply of manufacturing, positioning, maintenance history, accident, etc., information may be stored. Thus, columns therein correspond to the operator, section of the pipeline, defect, repair, cathodic protection, and even DOT/OPS Filings. Of course any information relevant to pipelines may be stored.

[**0072**] **FIG. 10** depicts a simplified system flow diagram for remote access to PIPS database **900** depicted in **FIG. 9**. While performing pipelaying or pipeline maintenance, operators will have remote access to database **900**. Remote access may be accomplished by voice communication via telephone or cellular phone **1010** or by data via computerized access to the Internet or private extranet or intranet **1000**. In a manner well known in the art, a connection is first established **1020** and authorization via password or the like **1030** must be obtained. Legitimacy of this attempted remote access is tested **1040**, with a pass-through **1050** granting access to database **900**. If authorization or authentication is not obtained, **1060**, then another attempt to establish a connection should be attempted **1020**.

[**0073**] It is contemplated that the PIPS database would preferably keep track of a diversity of pipelines and concomitant performance and longevity information under a diversity of environments and operating conditions. Information accumulated by pipeline owners through smart pig inspection and the like could be shared expeditiously among practitioners in the art, thereby resulting in more reliable pipeline performance, increased public safety, and reduced operating costs. It is also contemplated that government and industrial agencies would monitor such databases on an appropriate level of detail to safeguard the public and national interest.

[**0074**] Other variations and modifications will, of course, become apparent from a consideration of the structures and techniques hereinbefore described and depicted. Accordingly, it should be clearly understood that the present invention is not intended to be limited by the particular features and structures hereinbefore described and depicted in the accompanying drawings, but that the present invention is to be measured by the scope of the appended claims herein.

What is claimed is:

1. For a pipeline having a plurality of contiguous pipeline segments with a watt and corresponding internal and external circumferential surfaces disposed transversely of said pipeline, a system for identifying and positioning each of said plurality of pipeline segments, said system comprising:

a first plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons affixed to said wall disposed in a band therealong;

a medial plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons affixed to said wall disposed in a band therealong and disposed parallel to said a first plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons, and parallel to each other of said medial plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons;

a last plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons affixed to said wall disposed in a band therealong and disposed parallel to said a first plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons and remotely thereof, with said medial plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons interposed between said first plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons and said last plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons; and

each of said spaced-apart marker coupons having an alphanumeric code contained thereon adapted to be detected by conventional pipeline detection methods.

2. The system recited in claim 1, wherein each said plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons is affixed to said internal circumferential surface of said pipe wall.

3. The system recited in claim 1, wherein each said plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons are affixed to said external circumferential surface of said pipe wall.

4. The system recited in claim 1, wherein each said plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons are incorporated into the internal structure of said pipe wall.

5. The system recited in claim 1, wherein a combination of said first plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons, said medial plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons, and said final plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons uniquely identify the manufacture of said pipeline segment.

6. The system recited in claim 1, wherein a combination of said first plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons, said medial plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons, and said final plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons uniquely identify the geographical location of said pipeline segment.

7. The system recited in claim 1, wherein said first plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons corresponds to a predefined configuration of said alphanumeric codes representing a beginning code Registration Mark.

8. The system recited in claim 7, wherein said beginning code Registration Mark is adapted to identify the top 12 o'clock position of said pipeline segment.

9. The system recited in claim 1, wherein said last plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons corresponds to a predefined configuration of said alphanumeric codes representing an ending code Registration Mark.

10. The system recited in claim 9, wherein said ending code Registration Mark is adapted to identify the 3 o'clock position of said pipeline segment.

11. The system recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced-apart marker coupons are emplaced in successive 90° positions of said pipe wall, corresponding to 12 o'clock, 3 o'clock, 6 o'clock, and 9 o'clock positions, respectively.

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