

*Triton® Application Case Study***Use of Triton Vacuum Systems in Pipeline Decommissioning Operations**

Triton Vacuum Systems are used in the decommissioning and abandonment of oil and gas pipelines. There are a lot of benefits to using vacuum (versus pressure) to empty and flush a pipeline. If there is a leak and the pipeline is under pressure, the contents of the pipe are pushed out. Under vacuum, the outside environment (air or water) is pulled into the pipeline instead. Additionally, vacuum is inherently safer than pressure. And in the case of subsea piping, where the line has to be flushed before plugging and abandonment, any pinhole leak simply helps flush the line with seawater.



One decommissioning project consisted of flushing and removing about 10,000 feet of 2" and 2 1/2" lines, all below the waterline. The lines were in lengths ranging from 1800 to 3000 feet each. The deepest section was about 17' at pipeline crossings. Vacuuming with a "Triton 500" unit was continued until the line was flushed at 1-1/2 times the line volume, at which point decommissioning work could continue.



Another project used a "Triton 2500" Diesel Trailer on a Chevron pipeline project at Liberty Lake, Texas. The decommission work was on a 6" line that was about 6 miles long. The contractor had no problem pulling a hard vacuum on the line, but because the material was a very heavy thick material it was a slow process. At times they would even see the hoses collapse. After a time a decision was made to connect a trash pump to the line to assist with and speed-up the flush. They ran the pump on idle at minimum rate.

Triton Vacuum Systems are low cost, highly portable, and easy-to-operate. They are available in skid or trailer format, and driven by an electric motor or a diesel engine. Contact Triton at 225-637-3700 for more information.