

# Voluntary Information-Sharing System (VIS) Working Group



**Dr. Christie Murray**  
**Director of Outreach and Engagement**  
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# Purpose

- Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2016 (Sec 10):
  - *The need for, and the identification of, a system ...to maintain proprietary and security-sensitive data in a confidential manner...;*
  - *Ways to encourage the exchange of pipeline inspection information...;*
  - *Opportunities to share data, including dig verification data between operators of pipeline facilities and in-line inspector vendors...;*
  - *Options to create a secure system that protects proprietary data while encouraging the exchange of pipeline inspection...;*
  - *Means and best practices for the protection of safety and security-sensitive information and proprietary information; and*
  - *Regulatory, funding, and legal barriers to sharing the information*



# VIS WG

## Strategic Mission

To provide the Secretary of Transportation with independent advice and recommendations on the development of a secure, voluntary information-sharing system(s) that encourages collection and analysis of integrity inspection and risk assessment information and other appropriate data to improve pipeline safety for gas transmission, gas distribution and hazardous liquid pipelines in a measurable way. The intent of the system(s) is to provide a collaborative environment that is proactive in nature, facilitate technological advancements and lead industry to actionable outcomes.



# Diverse Membership (25)

**VIS WG (Designated Federal Official):** Dr. Christie Murray (PHMSA)  
**Committee Chair:** Commissioner Diane Burman (NY State PUC)

- PHMSA
- Industry stakeholders
  - Pipeline inspection organizations
  - Operators
  - Inspection technology vendors
- Safety advocacy groups
- Research institutions
- State public utility commissions
- State pipeline safety inspectors
- Labor representatives
- Other entities (Environmental)



# The Value of Voluntary Information Sharing

- Important part of critical infrastructure protection.
- Acknowledgement that sharing will strengthen resiliency in the pipeline industry.
- Actively seek new ways to collaborate and communicate.
- Focus on being proactive and forward looking.



# Pipeline Safety Management System Alignment

- Aligns well with Pipeline SMS principles.
- Focuses on improving pipeline safety through:
  - Exchanging relevant pipeline safety information
  - Sharing of lessons learned
  - Leveraging best practices
  - Engaging with stakeholders
  - Fostering continuous improvement





# Process for Information Sharing

## *Continuous Improvement Cycle*



# VIS WG Subcommittees

	Subcommittees
1	Mission and Objective
2	Process Sharing
3	Best Practices
4	Technology/R&D
5	Training and Qualification
6	Regulatory, Funding, & Legal
7	Reporting





# Recent Subcommittee Actions

- Kicked off subcommittee activities in Feb 2018.
- First face-to-face subcommittee meeting held on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>
- Subcommittees/Committee met on:
  - [February 28, 2018](#)
  - [April 4-5, 2018](#)
  - [June 19-20, 2018](#)
  - [August 22-23, 2018](#)
  - [October 3, 2018](#)
- Guest speakers invited to share
- Currently drafting report recommendations
- Subcommittees continue to report out on progress to the full committee



# Join Us Upcoming VIS WG Meetings

2018 VIS WG Upcoming Meeting Dates	
*	November 8, 2018 (Advisory Committee <i>Public</i> Meeting)
	November 9, 2018 (Advisory Committee <i>Public</i> Meeting)
*	December 18, 2018 (Advisory Committee <i>Public</i> Meeting)
	December 19, 2018 (Advisory Committee <i>Public</i> Meeting)

Location for all these meetings:

DOT HQ Building

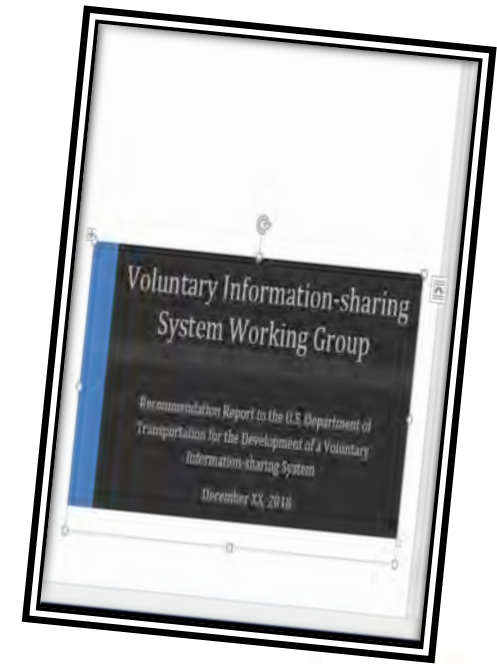
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE, Washington, DC 20590

**To register:** <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/Home.mtg>



# Recommendation Focus Areas

- Governance Structure
- Regulatory, Funding, and Legal Barriers
- Process sharing
- Best Practices
- Technology and R&D
- Competence, Awareness, and Training



# Focus Topics

## Mission and Objectives

- Scope of voluntary information sharing
- Governance structure
  - Leadership/decision making bodies
  - Entities (third party data provider/ analysis team)
  - Operations
  - Policies and procedures (information dissemination, access, confidentiality, transparency)
  - Funding structure/sources



# Focus Topics

## Regulatory, Funding, and Legal

- Establishing a governance structure
- Protecting proprietary and other sensitive information
- Considering FOIA implications
- Protecting information from litigation
- Identifying sustainable funding mechanisms



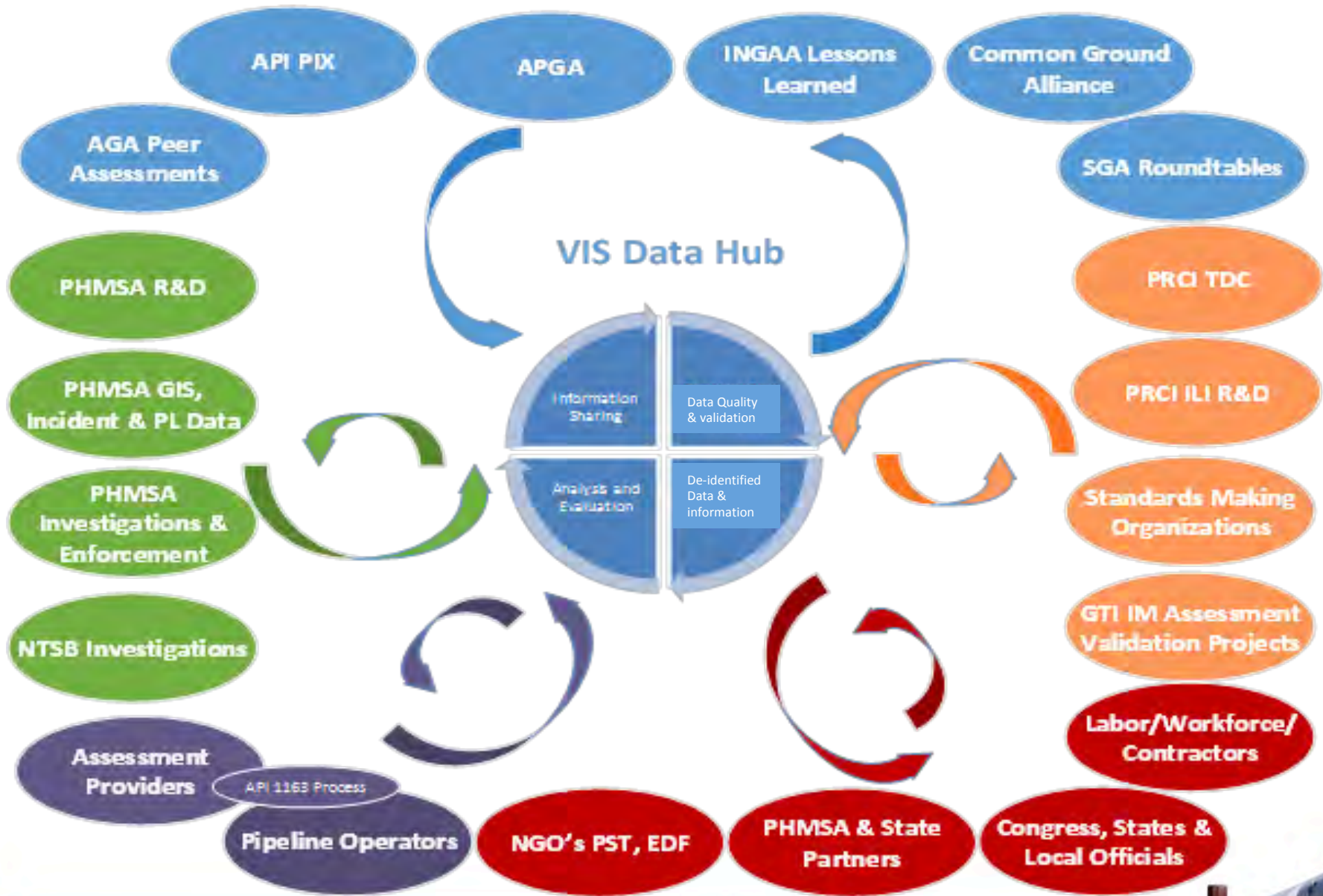
# Focus Topics

## Process Sharing

- Community of Practice – stakeholder information exchange
- Type of information/data shared
- Sharing information between stakeholder groups
- Leveraging existing information sharing systems
- Information sharing center or hub
- Sharing lessons learned about integrity assessments (from service providers also)
- Disseminating lessons learned







# Focus Topics

## Best Practices

- Consider more than just in-line inspection data
  - Incidents
  - Technology
  - Process improvements
- Leverage existing practices, procedures, and models to establish a VIS
- Core process or framework for information sharing
- Transparency and communication (messaging)



# Focus Topics

## Technology/R&D

- Creating a VIS hub
- Considering how other recommended practices/standards would align with the VIS effort (ILI, integrity management)
- Defining data specs and standards (qualitative/quantitative)
- Evaluating assessment tool performance
- De-identifying data
- Handling data quality (& training for personnel)
- Measuring effectiveness
- Establishing user groups for gaps in technologies
- Data warehousing



# Focus Topics

## Competency, Awareness, and Training

- Identifying knowledge and experience for those handling data and confidentiality
- Establishing a staff of analytical SME staff
- Outlining benefits of operator participation, non-punitive environment
- Specifying an initial training framework



# Conclusion

- Collaboration and information sharing paramount to continued pipeline safety.
- Ground breaking initiative in the pipeline industry.
- VIS WG Committee working diligently to produce a quality recommendation report
- May have implications on PHMSA's future reauthorization





# VIS References

- **PHMSA VIS Webpage:**  
<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/standards-rulemaking/pipeline/voluntary-information-sharing-system-working-group>
- **Meeting Registration & Documents:**  
<https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/Home.mtg>
- **Written comments:** Can be submitted to the docket:  
No: PHMSA-2016-0128





# Point of Contact

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