

**Voluntary Information-sharing System
Federal Advisory Committee
Mission and Objectives**

Report Out Presentation

June 20, 2018

Subcommittee Mission and Objectives (and Governance) Members

- Alternate Designated Federal Official: Nancy White
- Subcommittee Chair: Dan Cote
- Subcommittee Members:
 - Bob Buchanan
 - Dan Cote
 - Leif Jensen
 - Walter Jones
 - Randy Parker
 - Holly Pearen
 - Joe Subsits

Subcommittee Mission and Objectives

Task Statement

- Task Statement Number: 18-01
- Task Statement Title: Mission and Objectives
- Task Statement Description(s):
 - Previous Task Statement complete on February 28
 - **NEW Charge: Assume the discussion of governance**
 - Develop recommendations related to the organizational structure and governance rules
 - Develop recommendations on data sharing amongst and between the organizational structure, members, participants and the public
- Deliverable(s):
 - Recommendations on how to develop organization structure (including roles and responsibilities) and governance rules (including types of supporting governance documents)
 - Recommendations on how to develop data sharing amongst and between the organizational structure, members, participants, and the public (including types of information sharing protocols and processes)
 - Recommendations on approach to fully vetting governance structure once developed
- Target Milestones and Dates:
 - Approval to assume the governance responsibilities from the Parent VIS WG Committee – April 5
 - Governance Rules and Organization Structure Recommendations – July 30
 - Data Sharing Recommendation – July 30
 - Governance Vetting Recommendation – July 30

Subcommittee Mission and Objectives

Recent Activities/Actions

Complete: The Strategic Mission Statement and Objectives were approved on February 28, 2018. Additionally, the Mission and Objectives Subcommittee received full VIS Committee approval to assume responsibility for the provision of recommendations on governance and organizational structure.

Next Step: The Mission and Objectives Subcommittee will present recommendations on governance for approval by the VIS Committee.

Summary of Recommendations for the VIS WG Committee

Recommendation:	Any VIS system that is created should have a formal governance structure, including an executive director, an executive board, and subcommittees.
Recommendation:	The executive director would provide strategic day-to-day leadership over the VIS system.
Recommendation:	The subcommittees would support the executive board.
Recommendation:	The executive board would have specific responsibilities and could include individuals from industry, PHMSA, State officials responsible for pipeline safety, safety advocacy groups, labor, and research and development. A majority of the board must be made up of gas industry representatives.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The executive board must be responsible for the development of governing documents.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The executive board could also develop/distribute a list of events that may not be covered by reporting protections.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The executive board would develop/distribute confidentiality policies.• Both the confidentiality policies and the list of events should be codified in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Summary of Recommendations for the VIS WG Committee

Recommendation:	A third party must act as a clearinghouse for the VIS.
	• The third party will be the only entity that is able to access all information.
	• All appropriate data should be used in the analysis of lessons learned.
	• Analysis/interpretation of the data—which would be de-identified—must only be performed by the third-party vendor.
	• The third party would also work with the executive director/subcommittees to provide input on potential protocols.
	• Individuals will be expected to sign a confidentiality agreement designed to preserve the anonymity of identified data.
Recommendation:	Participation in a VIS system must not be required or mandated.
Recommendation:	The executive board will work with the executive director, the third party, and the subcommittees to develop data quality standards. The board will then finalize and approve the process for distributing and communicating these standards.

Questions for discussion

Strategic question: Do the incentives of confidentiality, a non-punitive system, funding, and the information itself overcome the challenges of information sharing to harness enough support for voluntary industry participation under a PHMSA umbrella?

If the Executive Director is a Federal employee, does that become an impediment to voluntary participation from industry?

Questions/Comments