



U.S. Department of
Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Voluntary Information-Sharing System (VIS) Case Study Questions

1. Describe the mission statement and strategic goals/objectives of the information sharing effort.
2. Describe the sharing effort. Was the effort data sharing, information sharing, or both? What were the drivers that initiated the information sharing effort?
3. Describe the organizational structure (i.e. government sanctioned). How has the structure changed over time?
4. What did the end product look like (purpose trying to achieve)? How did the results achieve the data/information gathering objective? Did the data/information match up the first time?
5. How was success defined? How did you know when the mission was achieved?
6. Describe the data intent (raw data/lessons learned/trends/analysis)?
7. How was data/information shared? Internally or publicly (with regulators)?
8. Describe the process for collecting, reviewing and evaluating data/information to be shared.
9. What are your major successes because of this data sharing initiative? How did the results/outcomes fit?
10. What challenges did you experience? What rabbit holes did you go down that did not benefit the process. How did you overcome them?
11. What were the sources of funding (including design, implementation, and sustainability)?
12. Describe how the data/information is housed? Who houses the data/information?
13. Who can access the data/information (including the public)? What level of access did users have? Did regulators have unfettered access to shared data/information? Why or why not? Were regulators in agreement not to have access to the information?
14. How much system/data space was needed? How do users interact with the system?
15. How was the data protected? How were entities/vendors protected? Did you face



**U.S. Department of
Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

sanctions (or potential sanctions) for the data/information reported?



**U.S. Department of
Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

16. What were the ongoing system maintenance/sustainment needs?
17. What were the quality control and quality assurance measures applied in the process?
18. During the design phase, what went well and what would you change. What were the design/development lessons learned or pitfalls of a particular model?
19. Looking back retrospectively, was the data/information sharing effort a strategic game changer or would the results have been the same without implementing the new data/information sharing effort?
20. What questions have we not asked that you ask in wanting us to understand your information sharing and how to derive the greatest value of the process?