



AOPL-API Leadership Teams on Performance Improvement

Research and Development/Enhanced Technology

AOPL and API believe additional research focus and resources are needed to advance pipeline safety and integrity. The R&D/Enhanced Technology Leadership Team will assess research gaps, identify critical research needs, and determine how existing funding strategies and timelines should change. The Team will specifically consider in-line inspection capabilities to detect cracking and dents with metal loss, in-line inspection capabilities to assess pipelines currently considered unpiggable, improvement of leak detection capabilities, and enhanced excavation damage prevention technologies, including remote right-of-way detection.

Leak Detection

AOPL and API are committed to leak detection improvements for hazardous liquid pipelines. We recognize current technology gaps that limit the operator's capacity to quickly detect and respond to pipeline releases, particularly when associated with low release rate events and with multiphase products. AOPL and API continue to support R&D efforts to improve overall hazardous liquid pipeline leak detection capabilities. The Leak Detection Leadership Team will also consider development of an industry standard with meaningful minimum capabilities under various operational and release scenarios.

AOPL and API also recognize some historical pipeline release events underscore opportunities for improvements in one or more of the areas of leak recognition, pipeline shutdown and isolation, and leak notification to emergency response and regulatory agencies. The Leak Detection Leadership Team will capture and share best practices in existing leak detection programs, with the objective of ensuring that we are collectively exploiting the capabilities of existing leak detection technology.

Enhanced Data Integration

AOPL and API believe there is a need for better data integration tools that consider singular and interactive threats. The Enhanced Data Integration Leadership Team will consider a platform for the liquid pipeline industry to better generate, collect, process, share, and integrate data on pipeline safety, operational excellence, integrity management, and failure risk. The Team will consider modifying existing standards and recommended practices to include more complete guidance on data integration or a new Recommended Practice on data integration techniques, tools, and implementation, working with PHMSA and with vendors.

Sharing Safety Practices and Lessons

AOPL and API believe sharing information on safety practices and lessons learned within the operator community improves pipeline safety and that our decade-old practices should be reviewed for possible improvements. The Sharing Practices Leadership Team

will consider how the Pipeline Performance Tracking System can share lessons learned about causes and follow up action, use more granular data, and develop new metrics for awareness. The Team will expand the value of the Pipeline Information Exchange (PIX) by creating a process for sharing lessons and recommending industry-wide changes after the conclusion of the annual workshop. The Team will also create more processes for sharing information across industries (with gas transmission and distribution), across AOPL-API committees, among companies, and within companies.

Damage Prevention

While there has been significant success reducing incidents, AOPL and API believe more can be done to prevent excavation damage to pipelines. The Damage Prevention Leadership Team will complete the development of, and promote, Model One-Call provisions, advocate for strong damage prevention laws and enforcement, consider the use of Pipeline Performance Tracking System Advisories to stakeholders, engage directly with excavator groups, and develop public education programs with other stakeholders.

External Communications

AOPL and API believe the liquids industry can do more to communicate our challenges, successes, and forward direction, and better understand the perspectives of others. The External Communications Leadership Team will foster a high-quality dialogue with government agencies, safety advocates, and the public at large, to better understand stakeholder concerns, improve the quality and responsiveness of industry answers to those concerns, and discuss solutions.

Strategic Planning

AOPL and API believe our many existing and potential performance improvement processes must continue to receive direction and support from executive leaders in our industry. The Strategic Planning Leadership Team will develop a regular process to ensure that executives are engaged in the work of our safety improvement teams and standing committees, give feedback, set priorities, and provide resources where needed.

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