

API RP 1185 is a flexible and scalable framework, but what does that mean? Let's look at:

## Share Information

Operators have information, and stakeholders want information. Coming to a common understanding of relevant information between the two groups in the earlier days of a project is important in determining the baseline information set, which is the foundation for meaningful engagement. The baseline information is sufficient to inform stakeholders about the project so they can engage more if they choose to.

Operators should consider dividing the information into two tiers and being transparent in their approach to preparing and sharing baseline information. The information doesn't need to be comprehensive.

Thinking of a two-tier approach may make it easier to determine the type of information to share. The **first tier** could consist of

- pipe diameter
- length
- commodity type
- timeline
- how to reach the operator

The criteria for this tier are defined upfront and applied to all projects regardless of the location.

The **second tier** is location-specific. Here, consider providing information about the project based on the stakeholders' values, needs, and experience with the infrastructure of the area. For this tier, you may want to include

- the description of the project
- proposed route
- alternative routes being considered
- short and long-term impacts
- a description of the work being performed
- name and contact information for a local company representative



**Shall:** As used in a standard, "shall" denotes a minimum requirement in order to conform to the standard.

**Should:** As used in a standard, "should" denotes a recommendation or that which is advised but not required in order to conform to the standard.

### 7.0 Share Information

#### 7.1 General

The pipeline operator's engagement program shall have a process for developing and sharing initial baseline information about a pipeline or project to encourage initial engagement.

#### 7.2 Objectives

The back-and-forth engagement between stakeholders and an operator shall start with baseline information. Baseline information and stakeholder communication should be presented in an unbiased manner.

#### 7.3 Scope of Information

Operators shall develop a baseline set of information sufficient to inform recipients about the pipeline or project.



Sharing benefits for the project can be helpful, but caution should be exercised so it doesn't come as a sale pitch, which may strain relationships.

Tailoring shared information shows your stakeholders that you are listening and aiming to understand what's important to them. Presenting it in an unbiased manner will open the doors to better relationships.

Combining both tiers would be your baseline information, which is then built upon through conversations and engagement. The approach through RP 1185 is thoughtful as it is intentional. Gone are the ineffective days of throwing everything at stakeholders and seeing what sticks.

**Documentation is important** in an engagement program.

At a minimum, document the baseline set of information that is shared with stakeholders. Consider documenting your approach to tailoring the information to back up what was included in the set.

### 7.3 Cont.

If previously developed information is utilized, it should still undergo a check and adjustment. When sharing information in this phase the operator shall include how stakeholders can request more information.

### 7.4 Minimum Program Documents

Operators shall maintain a baseline set of information to share with stakeholders.