

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### ***General***

If you cannot find an answer to your question, contact API/PPTS staff ([adefemia@api.org](mailto:adefemia@api.org) or [arafa@api.org](mailto:arafa@api.org)) for further assistance.

- [What is the Pipeline Performance Tracking System \(PPTS\)?](#)
- [What companies and assets are covered in the PPTS?](#)
- [What is the "Incident" survey?](#)
- [What is the "Infrastructure" survey?](#)
- [Will my data be treated as confidential?](#)
- [What is a Company ID?](#)
- [How does the oil pipeline industry intend to use the data?](#)
- [Can PPTS differentiate DOT from non-DOT spills?](#)
- [What numbers are used for the annual report card?](#)
- [Can my company get a report of just its DOT record?](#)

### **What is the PPTS?**

The Pipeline Performance Tracking System was created in 1998 as a result of a decision by the leadership of the oil pipeline industry to know more about our own safety and environmental performance than anyone else. Participants complete release incident surveys and infrastructure surveys and enter the data into the PPTS. This data is used to evaluate the oil pipeline industry's performance as a whole to gain a better understanding of the industry's performance and to identify trends that may not be apparent within one company's operations. The purpose is to improve oil pipeline industry performance, demonstrate the industry's commitment to continuous improvement and continue to drive toward the goal of error-free and spill-free operations.

In October of 2000, the pipeline leadership created the Data Mining Team (DMT), a group of subject matter experts drawn from a cross-section of the industry. The DMT is responsible for the maintenance of PPTS and undertakes analytical work based on PPTS data. This analytical work provides information to operators on significant factors related to incidents, regulatory changes and infrastructure trends. The DMT is part of a broader Performance Excellence Team, the group tasked by the liquid pipeline leadership with promoting practices to drive the industry's performance to zero spills, zero injuries and zero deaths.

[\[Back to the top\]](#)

## **What companies and assets are covered in the PPTS?**

The PPTS participants provide performance information for all the assets they operate whether those assets fall under the regulatory oversight of the US DOT Office of Pipeline Safety or not. Participants also provide information on assets where they are the operator of record (see PPTS Advisory 2007-1).

Participation in PPTS is open to any operator of hazardous liquid pipelines that is willing to commit to providing the in-depth incident and infrastructure information. Membership in API or AOPL is not a prerequisite to participate in PPTS. [\[Back to the top\]](#)

## **What is the "Incident" survey?**

Incident surveys are collected annually for any incidents that meet PPTS reporting thresholds. Originally, incident surveys were developed for reporting release events; however, DIRT reporting has been integrated into PPTS. This has expanded the scope to damage incidents with or without a release. [Click here to see a copy of this survey.](#)  
[\[Back to the top\]](#)

## **What is the "Infrastructure" survey?**

For each reporting year, API conducts a supplemental survey of information needed to understand the infrastructure in place and normalize accident information (*e.g.*, spill rates per mile or per volume). This supplemental survey includes system mileage, components, and volumes moved. [Click here to see a copy of this survey.](#)  
[\[Back to the top\]](#)

## **Will my data be treated as confidential?**

Individual company information is kept confidential. API cannot assure, however, that company data would not have to be produced in the unlikely event that it was subpoenaed or otherwise ordered to be produced by a competent authority. The information collected will be factual and will not include narrative text describing incidents. The same information will exist in participating companies' files. We recommend that your own legal counsel be consulted in reaching your decision to participate. [\[Back to the top\]](#)

## **What is a Company ID?**

Each company that participates in PPTS is assigned a unique identifier (ID). PPTS can accommodate separate reporting IDs for your subsystems or joint ventures that you operate. [\[Back to the top\]](#)

## **How does the oil pipeline industry intend to use the data?**

API and AOPL use this information to demonstrate the performance of the industry as a whole, to conduct performance benchmarking and to drive improved performance. The data is also used to prepare an annual confidential "report card" for each participating company comparing its results to the results from the rest of industry. [\[Back to the top\]](#)

## **Can PPTS differentiate DOT from non-DOT spills?**

My company is interested in the DOT performance record – if I report all of my operated assets, can PPTS differentiate DOT from non-DOT spills?

Yes, PPTS will use the question “was a form 7000-1 filed for this release” to determine which reports are for DOT assets. [\[Back to the top\]](#)

## **What numbers are used for the annual operator-specific (and confidential) report card?**

PPTS uses the total number of spills from all assets for the standard report card. [\[Back to the top\]](#)

## **Can my company get a report of just its spills from DOT-jurisdictional assets record?**

If your company would like a DOT specific report, PPTS can prepare that report for a small additional fee. [\[Back to the top\]](#)