



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Office of Pipeline Safety Presentation on

Benefits from Research

Benefits from Research

How are they defined?

OPS defines research benefits as:

- Fostering the development of new technology
- Strengthening industry consensus standards and regulatory requirements
- Increasing the level of technical knowledge with industry & inspectors
- Indirectly contributing to improvements with industry practice & performance

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What has OPS done to identify them?

- Solicited constructive direction and feedback from our stakeholders
- Attended many events which increased knowledge on the subject
- Conducted literary searches on other sector's experience
- Developed strategic and performance plans
- Developed a management information system to collect data



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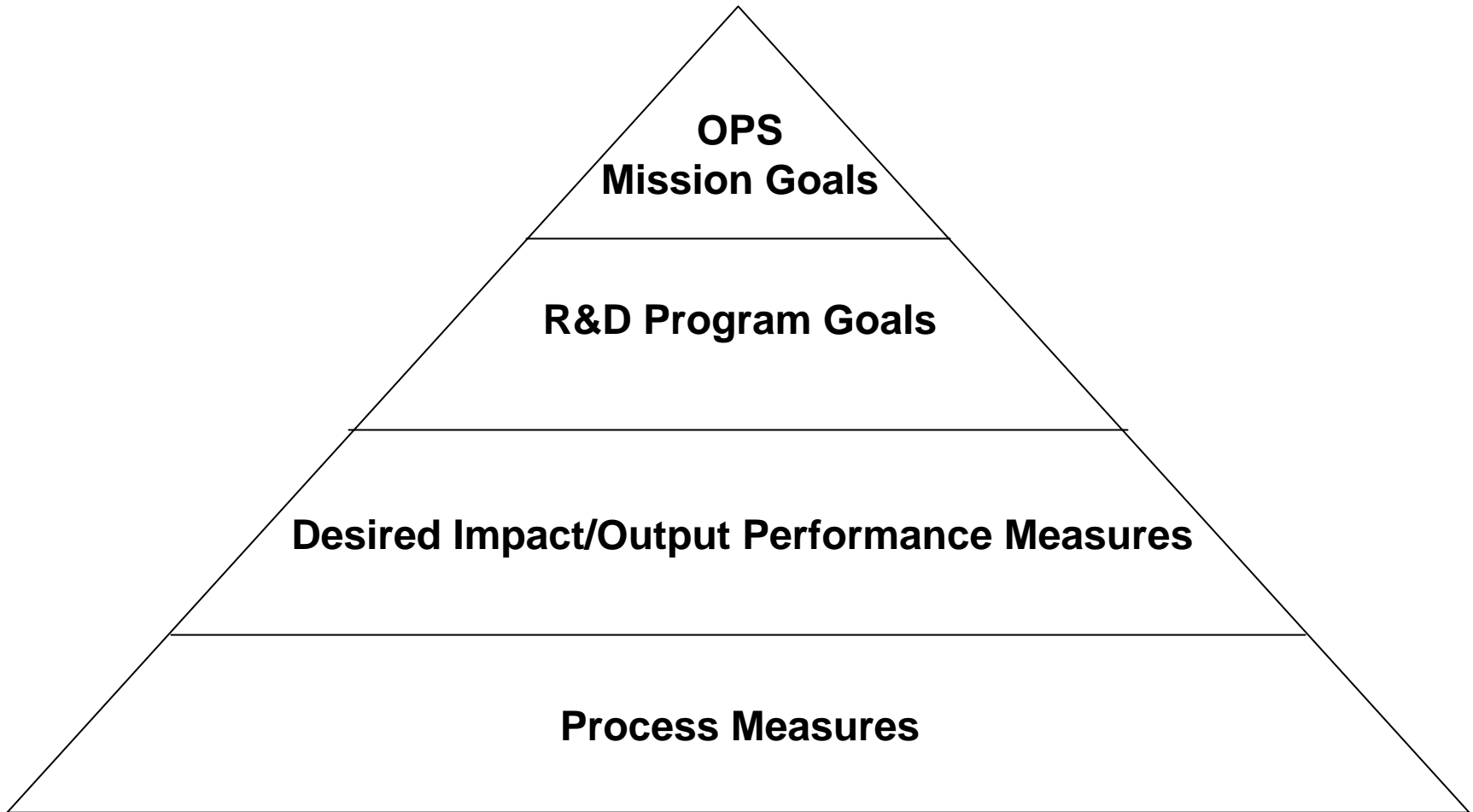
What has OPS learned about measuring them?

The guiding principles for performance measurement and evaluation include:

1. Measure the right things
2. Focus on the performance categories of importance to the mission
3. Focus on program outcomes and impacts where possible, less on inputs
4. Establish a baseline on which to base standards of measurement, including outside expertise and year-to-year comparison
5. The basis for performance measurement is the collection and analysis of data
6. Performance measures should be SMART—simple, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely.
7. Beware of unintended consequences.

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How does OPS systematically measure?





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What will OPS systematically measure?

OPS Mission Goals	To ensure the safe, reliable & environmentally sound operation of the nation's pipeline transportation system.					
Program Goals	Fostering Development of New Technologies		Strengthening Regulatory Requirements and Consensus Standards		Promoting Knowledge for Decision Makers	
Desired Impact Performance Measures	Number of projects contributing to goals	18	Number of projects contributing to goals	24	Number of projects contributing to goals	43
	Number of projects demonstrated	6	Number of projects contributing to new or revised standards	24	Number of final reports publicly available	12
	Number of projects filing for U.S. Patents	6	Number of projects contributing to new or revised regulations	15	Number of conference papers presented	TBD
Process Measures	Categorizing projects for mission relevance		Categorizing projects for mission relevance		Categorizing projects for mission relevance	
	Technology transfer process		Consensus standard integration process		Peer review process for validating output quality	
	Peer review process for validating output quality		OPS regulatory program integration process		Monitoring projects for contractual performance	
	Monitoring projects for contractual performance		Peer review process for validating output quality		Contractual requirement for submitting conference papers	
	Contractual requirement for notifying OPS of U.S. patents		Monitoring projects for contractual performance			
Fast Facts: 1. First project award on October 1, 2002 2. Total awards from four Broad Agency Announcements: 43 projects 3. Current number of projects completed: 12 projects 4. Total funding distribution for 43 projects: \$11,100,248 (OPS) \$14,641,638 (Industry co-Funding)						

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How far and hard should you look?

Many questions to be answered:

- Should we conduct research on our research?
- How can we effectively data mine the industry to ascertain benefits?
- How much does data mining and case studies cost?
- How can regulators systematically obtain this data?
- Is this an effective use of our efforts & resources?