

Is the model meant to replace existing risk models?

No. It's just meant to be another option, similar to what we're going through right now with distribution integrity. We have shown how we can use ModelBuilder as one means of doing risk analysis. But we've got business partners who have other variations of how to use the spatial analytical tools to do the risk analysis as well. They are all viable options and the key thing here is that we have options. That is the beauty of Esri technology.

A transmission tool might be useful, for example, in a situation where a company outsources the risk analysis on its pipelines but wants to perform what-if analysis for planning. The industry is not currently addressing the planning scenario or understanding the long-term risk of a proposed pipeline. This is one of the specifics that we're looking at with this pipeline model to help provide customers with the ability to do risk analysis on a proposed pipe, a proposed route, and all the variations that come with it.

The industry is continually learning and understanding the power of geospatial analytics in addressing its needs. If any of our customers have a problem that they want to try to work on, perhaps they can contact us to discuss whether or not it's something that would be appropriate in a model template. Most of the existing models came about through a customer question or problem.

Thank you very much Tom, and for future inquests, Tom's e-mail address is tdewitte@esri.com.