



ECOS Data Management Work Group

March 23, 2010
Sausalito, CA

Meeting Notes

Featured Speaker

Linda Travers, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Environmental Information

- ARRA using some of the same infrastructure as the Exchange Network developed
- Developed Electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (NETDMR) Capability
 - New EN Practice: Facilities submit DMRs through a standard web form – State and EPA receive electronically
 - Implementation by all/most NPDES facilities should result in significant savings for industry, States, and EPA
- Exchange Partnership Focus FY 2010
 1. Complete Data Exchanges for 11 national and regulatory systems
 2. Create/Expand High Value Data Exchanges
 - Establish Greenhouse Gas Reporting Exchange
 - Expand Homeland Emergency Response Application – sharing of critical emergency response data among first responders
 3. Quarter-by-Quarter Action Plan under development in collaboration with ECOS
 4. Targets specific EPA, ECOS, state, territorial, and tribal actions needed to achieve regulatory/priority flows by 2012
- FY 2010 Exchange Network Grants
 1. EPA provides ~\$10M a year to support the Exchange Network
 2. FY2010 funding focused on completing regulatory data exchanges and electronic reporting compliance (CROMERR)
 3. FY2010 - 57 applications submitted – 43 States, 14 tribes
 4. Selected 47 applications for award-Next Steps for FY2010
 - Notification by end of March
 - Awards by end of August
 5. FY2011 EN Grants will continue to focus on completing regulatory data exchanges
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mandatory Reporting Rule Implementation
 1. Facilities will submit emissions reports to EPA electronically
 2. Facility and user registration open in July 2010
 3. Facility emissions reporting begins January 2011
 4. Deadline for emissions reporting is March 31, 2011
 5. Joint EPA-State Integrated Project Team Established

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- CROMERR Status as of March 2010
 - 60 CROMERR applications received from 41 states and one local agency
 - 18 Approved to Date – Remainder in various stages of review/corrections

Questions

IN: Electronic document mapping system – first component is email which must be filed or printed and is very expensive. How is EPA handling?

Travers: EPA grappling with same issues

NE: Have any in-roads been made to ease the on-going tension between EPA and States regarding the type of data and quality of data being requested and published?

Travers: there is an ICIS-NPDES integrated project team plus electronic reporting is being looked at through the clean water enforcement implementation plan as well as an EITLC Process Action Team

VT: EPA's escalating requests to collect and make public data significantly increases workload. We should ask: Why are we collecting this? What is it being used for? Who is looking at it? Why? What for? Is it accurate? Is it cost effective?

Travers: EPA is required to collect data under regulations. That data provides a national perspective.

PPT: http://www.ecos.org/files/4031_file_Linda_Travers_EPA_CIO.ppt

EPA-State Integrated Project Teams

Karen Bassett – Integrated Projects Teams have been formed with participation by states and EPA. Andy Putnam of Colorado is state co-chair of the GHG IPT; Mike Beaulac of Michigan is state co-chair of the ICIS-NPDES IPT.

Mitch West – ICIS-NPDES IPT Update

- There are lingering issues about the data set that is being collected
- Added a full replacement transaction at the states request (states can replace the inspection record)
- Timeline is very long to accomplish this
- States are not raising issues or speaking up very much
- States have signed up for testing - what is designed and looks good on paper may not always work well in reality
- IPTs address HOW data is reported; regulations address WHAT data is collected

Kong Chiu – Greenhouse Gas IPT

- Chartered by the Office of Air and Radiation and the Exchange Network Leadership Council
- Timeframe December 2009 – April 2010
- 15 States

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- EPA participants: Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Office of Environmental Information
- Observers invited from Environment Canada and British Columbia

GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule - Proposed April, 2009, Finalized October 2009

- 31 subparts; upstream & downstream source categories
- 10,000 facilities, and 1,200 data elements
- Annual facility to EPA GHG emissions reporting
 - 2010 is the first data collection & reporting year
 - March 2011 is the deadline for 2010 annual reports
 - Electronic reporting only
 - Web-based application (web forms)
 - Bulk XML upload
 - Great Development team: TRI-me Web
- State-EPA Integrated Project Team Membership
 - Andy Putnam, CO, State Co-Chair / Kong Chiu, EPA Co-Chair
 - State Members : AZ , CA , CO, HI , IA , MA , MI, NC , NJ , NV , NM, OR , WA , WI
 - Technical Consultants: ECOS, Windsor, TCR, Ross
- GHG Data IPT Charge: Plan, design, develop, and document a GHG Data Exchange
- Phase 1: Identify & Document State Requirements
 - State consultations- differences from federal rule
 - Integrate State Requirements into EPA Electronic Reporting Schema
 - Enhanced federal reporting tool
 - Expanded federal data collection

PPT: http://www.ecos.org/files/4032_file_Kong_Chui_EPA_GHG_IPT.ppt

EPA-ECOS Environmental Technology Leadership Council

Lisa Schlosser, EPA Co-Chair and Laurie Beamish, State Co-Chair

- The EITLC was chartered in December 2008 by State agencies with primacy for administering environmental programs and the U.S. EPA as the next generation of the former Information Management Workgroup (IMWG). The intent of the EITLC is to provide a collaborative leadership forum for information technology leaders, managers and their designees to transfer knowledge, share solutions and information, and provide opportunities for creative thinking in support of organizational goals.
- The EITLC Steering Committee – the governing body of the full Council – has held six remote teleconference calls to lay the groundwork for future projects for the Council, including the development of the new collaborative site, the EITLC Wiki.
- The Wiki is up and running.
- The EITLC developed a high priority environmental information issue list, from which the environmental community of interest (COI) was invited to select its top five most prominent issues in terms of importance, relevance, and impact.

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- States and EPA were then invited to join Priority Action Teams (PATs) around four of the five issues.
- The PATs have been formed and each has one State and one EPA co-lead. They are in the process of confirming the scopes their respective issue areas, identifying work products, Wiki content, and final products, where applicable.
- Four PATs had their first report-out to the full EITLC on a March 15 conference call. Each PAT has available to it a section of the EITLC Wiki for which members can collaboratively post meeting notes, action items, finished or developing products/documents, and meeting logistical information.
- The PATs have as long-term goals, the posting and sharing of open code, lessons learned, surveys, inventories, etc.
- The annual EITLC meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2010 from 8am-12pm in conjunction with the EPA OEI Environmental Information Symposium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The PATs will be conducting demonstrations as well as reporting on progress toward meeting their objectives. Any ECOS member attending the Symposium is invited to the meeting.

EITLC Wiki: http://eitlc.ross-assoc.net/index.php/Main_Page

Exchange Network Leadership Council Update

Mitch West, Exchange Network Coordinator

- Exchange Network National Meeting - *“Doing More with Your Data”*
 - April 20, 2010 – April 22, 2010
 - InterContinental Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
 - 175 registrants as of March 19
- Large Aquatic Ecosystems issues will be addressed at the meeting
 - Coming together to share data – fisheries and environmental agencies
- Exchange Network Leadership Council
 - Finishing the flows
 - Creating final action plan – like a final ‘punch list’
 - Some flows not working as well as others and need to be fixed
 - Will further investigate identified failings
- Karen Bassett – looking for two state representatives to add to the ENLC by mid-summer