



## **ECOS Data Management Work Group**

August 29, 2010

Whitefield, NH

### **Draft Meeting Notes**

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**Welcome** – Karen Bassett (AR), Chair and Melanie Morris (MS), Vice Chair

**Introduction of Speaker** - Karen Bassett

Malcolm Jackson is originally from Chicago, Illinois and has a marketing and engineering background in addition to information technology in the private sector

**Featured Speaker**

Malcolm Jackson, *Assistant Administrator, Office of Environmental Information*

**EPA CIO Priorities**

- Focus on Service Quality - what does success look like for OEI
- Run OEI Like a Business – make stronger business cases in the work the agency does
- Strengthen Partnerships - EN is excellent example of a successful partnership
- Establish a Strategic Direction – work closely with OCFO chief Barbara Bennet; she will provide financial perspective and Malcolm will provide the business/technology perspective
- Invest in Talent Management

**State of the Network**

The Partnership is Sound

- Increased State-to-State and State-to-EPA collaboration
- Increased EN-to-NPM collaboration
- Continued Governance oversight

Tools and Technology Continue to Improve

- New Service Dashboard
- Network Publishing and Two-Way Exchange
- “Build Once, Use Many”

Significant Balances Remain to Seed Continued Work

- \$19.5 million remains unspent on FY 2003 to 2008 grants
- 47.5% of Data Flows remain to be implemented

**FY 2011 Grants Program and Solicitation Notice**

- \$10 million available in FY 2011 for state, tribal, and territorial awards
- Solicitation Notice for 2011 Grants Program was published on 8/12/2010
  - Applications Deadline: November 5, 2010
  - Implementation Plan for each state applicant
  - Three tiers to focus resources on languishing data flows
- Applications accepted through data.gov
- Review Panels scheduled for late-January 2011
- Notifications expected in March 2011
- Final awards to be made by July 2011

## **ECOS DMWG Meeting Notes**

August 29, 2010  
Sausalito, CA

### **“Drive to Finish” – Phase I**

*EN Strategic Target: All states will implement all appropriate flows by 2012*

- 11 National / Priority System Flows to implement
- Legacy Systems being phased out
- Internal Discussions with Program NPMs to remove barriers to state implementation
- Implementation Matrix shows 50% implementation and planned dates for many other flows
- Continued collaboration will focus efforts on:
  - Discontinued Flows
  - Removing “unknowns” for implementation scheme
  - Understanding missed or changed milestones
  - Including new flows and different roles in implementation
- State Implementation Plans are a key component to long-term success

### **“Drive to Finish” – Future Actions**

*ECOS and EPA remain committed to the Exchange Network beyond 2012*

- Significant infrastructure and capacity-building needs have been identified for new and existing tribal/territorial partners
- Alternative funding streams to cover operations and maintenance needs for current systems are being explored
- Network publishing to broaden data access is vital to the long-term success of the partnership
- Addition of new nationally significant flows to the catalog:
  - ATTAINS
  - eGRET
- Next Generation of system modernization
  - System Prioritization
  - EPA/Partner Involvement

### **Future of the Exchange Network**

Open Government

Recovery.gov and data.gov

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting in 2011

Multi-directional Flows

### Questions

Arlene O. – are trigger points designed to detect compliance data flaws?

OECA/Lund- Yes. ICIS-NPDES has capacity to determine if data is in compliance with the permits. May look at trying to do with AFS too.

IN – there is junk in the database that needs to be weeded out. And causes states to waste time explaining the data that’s not true or relevant.

OECA/Lund – agree – AFS needs to be modernized

How do you assure the highest level of data quality?

AA Jackson – will look at this. Legacy systems have a lot of old data that needs to be scrubbed. Cut how do you do it? Will investigate.

AA Jackson - What is the most pressing information technology issue?

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MS – need to get away from ‘feeding the beast’, i.e. sending more and more information to EPA

### **Draft ECOS Resolution – Respectful Use of Data** – Karen Bassett

Has anything been left off of the list or need further clarification?

The 5<sup>th</sup> “Whereas” - some data is protected under drinking water – is there any other protected information?

IN - Possibly under CAA 112(r)

OECA/Lund – not sure

Who in EPA do we contact to find out?

AA Jackson - the OEI CIO also is the head of FOIA. EPA will look into.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> “Therefore” – question to states is, date by which states must have data in to EPA database...then there is a few days for review

Need a correction process on EPA’s part when a State identifies faulty data for correction.

### **Drinking Water Data Sharing Steering Committee** – Karen Bassett

Committee has been formed in conjunction with ASDWA and ASTHO and is working on an MOU with EPA. A drinking water IPT will be formed as one of the activities under Administrator Jackson’s drinking water initiative.

### **Exchange Network Coordinator Update** – Kurt Rakouskas, Network Coordinator

- Turning off existing mechanisms – ECOS Resolution was a real catalyst for driving forward and removing obstacles to this goal
- Network governance actions are specific to flows to achieve
- Focus areas for 2011-2012 are large aquatic ecosystems and drinking water

### **Environmental Information Technology Leadership Council** – Karen Bassett

States are encouraged to complete and return the inventory they received on digital inspectors and e-reporting.

### **E-reporting Rule** – Melanie Morris

NPDES e-reporting rule – options will be selected in September. Rule due out at the end of the year.

(This since has slipped to January)