ECHO User Guide for NPDES Permits

I.   Navigating to ECHO

- To access ECHO visit the website: https://echo.epa.gov/
- The left-hand toolbar provides additional search options to narrow criteria. Detailed descriptions of each toolbar option are shown below:

Quick Search
- Perform a search to locate regulated facilities near a specific address, city, state, and/or zip code
- Perform a search to locate regulated facilities by facility name or ID

Search Options
- Search for facilities by media program – with a focus on:
  - Clean Air Act (CAA)
  - Clean Water Act (CWA)
  - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
  - Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
- Filter results by location, facility or system characteristics, enforcement and compliance activity, or pollutant
- View facilities on a map or data table
- Facility reports display 3 years of violation data and 5 years of compliance monitoring and enforcement data

Analyze Trends
- Display trends in compliance and enforcement data through dashboards, maps, and charts
- Analyze Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data
- Use tools to analyze pollution sources

Find EPA Cases
- Search for EPA enforcement cases by case or docket number, environmental statute, date, company name, or facility locations
- View EPA case status, milestones, and penalties

Data Services
- Download national data sets comprising more than 15+ years of compliance monitoring and enforcement data
- Access ECHO web services
- Access ECHO map services

Help
- View 5-10 minute video training tutorials
- Register for live webinars
- Access documentation to better understand results
- Learn about data available in ECHO and weekly data refreshes
- Read Frequently Asked Questions
- Review the ECHO Tool Guide

News
- Read about the latest ECHO News
- Join the ECHO Listserv

II.   ECHO Quick Search

- The quick search tool can be used to search by either Location or Facility Name
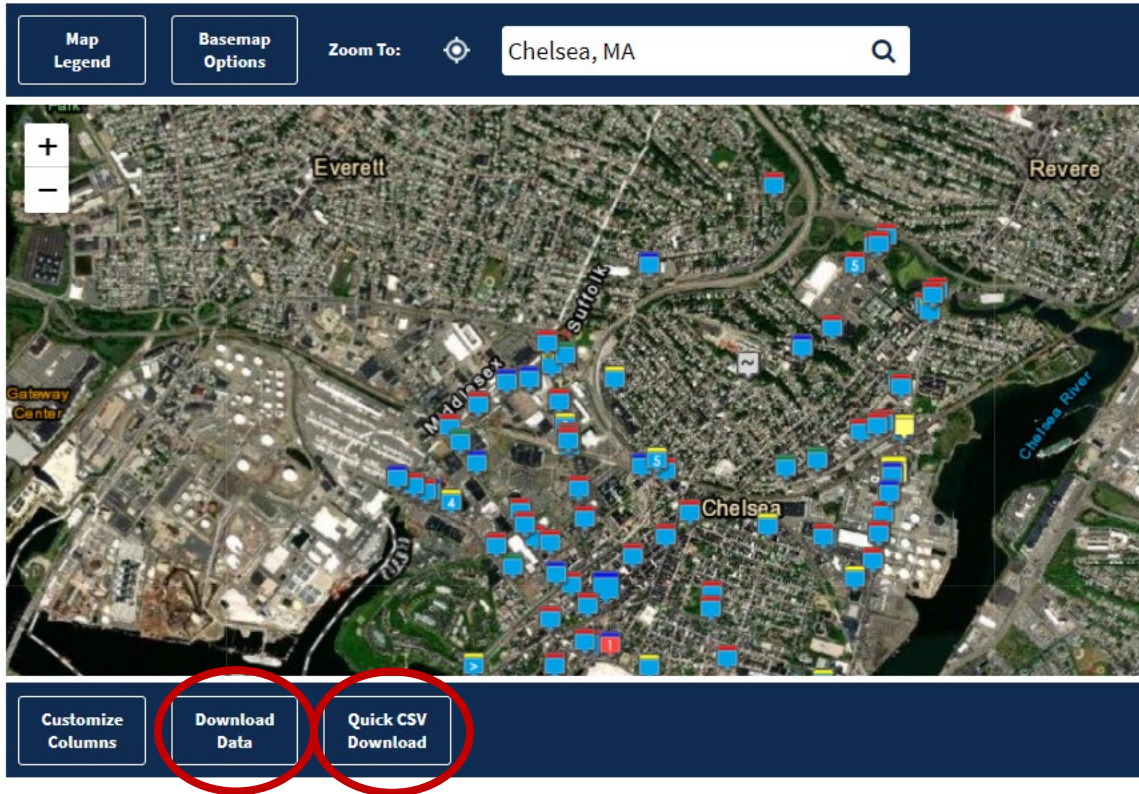
- This tool will bring up an interactive map of either the pre-specified location or facility name. From the map the user can zoom in or out, move around, or view and sort facilities. An example of the interactive map for Chelsea, MA is shown below.

- The righthand side of the map provides options for searching, filtering, and layering.
- The filtering tool allows the user to sort facilities by permit type, major/minor, enforcement action, or last inspection date
- The layering tool allows the user to add additional data and mapping boundaries for Environmental Justice, Endangered Species, water and air maps.

III.   Downloading Data

- Data can be downloaded directly from the interactive mapping feature in multiple formats, as shown in the image below.

- The data can be downloaded using either of the circled functions "Download Data" or "Quick CSV Download"
- The "Download Data" feature allows the user to choose the file type and sort preferences, while the "Quick CSV Download" feature directly downloads a CSV file to the user's computer.

IV.   Water Pollutant Loading Tool

- Along with the quick search function, ECHO has additional search tools targeted for NPDES Effluent Discharges
- This tool can be found by selecting "Search Options" from the home ECHO screen and selected "Water Pollutant Loading Tool" under the Water Category or by using this link: https://echo.epa.gov/trends/loading-tool/water-pollution-search/

- This allows the user to search for Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) or Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Reports for facilities based on Location, Facility Name, Pollutant or Industry Type. The full search criteria is shown below:

Location or Watershed — 1

- **Nationwide**
- **Search by Location**

ZIP Code

EPA Region   (View EPA Regional Map)
Select an EPA Region

State
Select a State

County
Select a State

City

- **Search by Watershed**

ZIP Code

Watershed ID (2-Digit to 12-Digit HUC)

Major U.S. Watersheds
Select a Watershed Group
Select a Watershed

Only include facilities that discharge:
- to impaired water bodies
- pollutants contributing to a water body impairment
- to counties or watersheds with ESA-listed aquatic species

Pollutant — 2

- **All Pollutants**
- **Specify Pollutant**

Pollutant Name
Specify Pollutant Name

Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) Number
Specify CAS Number

- **Pollutant Categories**

With calculated loadings ❓
- Nitrogen
- Phosphorus
- Organic Enrichment
- Solids
- Metals
- Clean Water Act Priority Pollutants
- CERCLA Hazardous Substances
- TRI Chemicals
- Radionuclides
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Without calculated loadings ❓
- Pathogen Indicators
- Temperature
- Wastewater Flow
- General Radioactivity
- Color
- Whole Effluent Toxicity

- Only include facilities with effluent limit exceedances

Industry — 3

- **All Point Sources**
- **Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs)**
- **Industrial Point Sources (non-POTWs)**

Point Source Category
All Point Source Categories

Industrial Sector ID (2-Digit SIC Code)
All SIC Codes

SIC Code Lookup

SIC Code (Enter 4-Digit Codes)

2-Digit NAICS Code
All NAICS Codes

Enter 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6-Digit NAICS Code(s)

Facility — 4

Facility Name

Facility ID (NPDES, FRS, TRI, or CWNS)

Permit Type
Select a Permit Type

Major/Non-Major Indicator
- Any
- Major
- Non-Major

Only include facilities that: ⓘ
- No Restrictions
- Link to TRI ID(s)
- DO NOT link to TRI ID(s)

Search

V. NPDES Monitoring Data Download

- DMR data can be directly downloaded using the "NPDES Monitoring Data Download" Tool. Found by selecting the second tab on the top banner of the Water Pollutant Loading Tool labeled "Data Download" and selecting the second option from the top labeled "NPDES Monitoring Data Download" or by using this link: https://echo.epa.gov/trends/loading-tool/get-data/monitoring-data-download
- The user can then download DMR data in different formats by entering the facility ID Number of interest and the date range of interest as shown in the image below.
- Data can then be downloaded as an Excel or CSV File and used for analysis.

VI. ECHO Notify

- ECHO Notify can be accessed at https://echo.epa.gov/tools/echo-notify and provides weekly email notifications of changes to enforcement and compliance data. Public users can access information using the secure sign-in service Login.gov.
- Users can sign up for notifications based on location (Facility Id, Zip Code, etc.) and Notification Options. For the purposes of NPDES permit information users should select the CWA notification options.

Select Locations

Search Tip

Results are returned on the largest location identifier that is entered (e.g., if you are only interested in several ZIP Codes, do not also select the state code. If a state is selected, results are returned for the entire state.

Facility IDs: Federal Registry Service (FRS) IDs are recommended; however, IDs from the following programs are also accepted: Clean Air Act (CAA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Hazardous Waste Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Facility IDs	ZIP Code	County	State
Enter comma-separated Facility	Enter comma-separated ZIP Co	Search for a County	Select a State

EPA Region

Select a Region

Select Notification Options

Search Tip

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) reports are released quarterly (every 90 days), and are NOT available by ZIP Code.

+ Select All   − Clear All

CAA:	☐ All	☐ FRV	☐ HPV	☐ IEA	☐ FEA	☐ SMDU	
CWA:	☐ All	☐ EFV	☐ SEV	☐ PSV	☐ CSV	☐ SNC	☐ IEA	☐ FEA
RCRA:	☐ All	☐ Viol	☐ SNC	☐ IEA	☐ FEA	☐ EWG	
SDWA:	☐ All	☐ Viol	☐ HBV	☐ IEA	☐ FEA	☐ EWN	☐ NEP	☐ NPEP

All Statutes: ☐ EPA-Led Enforcement

☐ Make my email screen reader friendly

Submit   **Unsubscribe**

VII.   Resources

https://echo.epa.gov/

https://echo.epa.gov/trends/loading-tool/effluent-exceedances-search

https://echo.epa.gov/tools/echo-notify

https://echo.epa.gov/trends/loading-tool/get-data/monitoring-data-download

https://echo.epa.gov/resources/general-info/learn-more-about-echo

https://echo.epa.gov/help/tutorials

https://echo.epa.gov/help/training