

## STORET Conference Call – December 5, 2002 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time

### Introduction (Cary McElhinney)

- The minutes from the last conference call are available over the web:  
<http://www.epa.gov/storet/confcalls.html>
- The next scheduled call will be January 16, 2003 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time. Call in number is (202) 260-8330 access code 1131#
- If you have a special topic you'd like to lead for an upcoming call, please email [mcelhinney.cary@epa.gov](mailto:mcelhinney.cary@epa.gov)

### Update from STORET Team (Lee Manning)

#### SIM 1.2.2

- Updated copy of SIM 1.2.2 was posted to the website Tue Dec 3 at around 3 PM. This update fixes some discovered bugs. Please download and install this copy so you have the latest version.

#### STORET 2.0

- Should receive SIM 2.0 from developers before end of year to complete development on all STORET 2.0 products.
- EPA will release STORET 2.0 as a suite of products
- Key features available now with STORET 2.0:
- Added the capability to store documents in the database:
  - Project Plans
  - Quality Assurance Project Plans
  - Supporting citations
  - Native Data Logger text files
- Added the capability to store pictures in the database:
  - Station descriptions
  - Station visit conditions
  - Monitoring Activities
  - Monitoring Activity Results
  - Analytical graphics (spectra for tentatively identified compounds)
  - Photographs of biological specimen conditions
- Support for Probability Based Surveys
  - Station Weights
  - Sampling Plans
  - Full Survey Design Document in the database
- Supports all EPA Standard Taxonomic Nomenclature from ITIS (350,000+ names)
- Full support for STORET Interface Module (SIM)
  - Station Descriptions
  - Project descriptions
  - Water chemistry data
  - Habitat assessments
  - Biological community richness and diversity
- Fully compatible with Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows NT, and Windows XP.
- Fully compatible with Oracle 8i.

### Progress on redesign of central STORET Warehouse

- Completed design to enable download of station descriptions based on occurrence of specific activities.
- Early next year EPA will release this functionality to the public
- Working on design for full data warehouse to download results
- Hope to have completely new web retrieval application released in Spring/Summer 2003.
- EPA employees can access the beta version on the EPA intranet here:  
[http://oasint.rtpnc.epa.gov/storetmodern/dw\\_stationcriteria](http://oasint.rtpnc.epa.gov/storetmodern/dw_stationcriteria)

### Special Topic: EPA Region Support for STORET

#### Led by Eric Wilson – EPA Region 9 STORET Coordinator

- Eric started by summarizing the issue: In order to assist and take some of the burden off the HQ STORET team, STORET coordinators in the EPA Region offices must be able to provide support for STORET. One problem is that currently there are only 2 out of 10 full time STORET Coordinators in the EPA Region offices. Other non full time coordinators have stated in the past that their duties only allow for part of their time (as low as 5%) to dedicate towards STORET Support.
- NY State indicated they are having problems with the applications, they need someone who they can call for support. They state there is no designated STORET support person for EPA Region 2.
- There is an obvious discrepancy across the Region offices in their level of STORET support. Some EPA Regions have great support, some have very little or none.
- Some EPA Region offices asking their states to put data into STORET, yet offer very little support in doing so
- There is a need to train the Region coordinators in the different aspects of STORET and keep them up to speed.
- EPA HQ should request the coordinators travel to Washington, DC for a training session
- FL DEP is strongly requesting a STORET Coordinator in EPA Region 4 that can devote 100%
- The HQ STORET team has made requests to HQ management about the need for more EPA Region support
- Many users aren't sure who to address lack of support complaints to (suggestion made to contact management in Region offices)
- After a number of inquiries about training for STORET v2.0, the STORET team stated that there aren't any drastic changes in the functionality of the user applications.
- Suggestion was made to put language into 106 Performance Partnership Agreements (PPA) that EPA Regions provide adequate support for STORET
- Suggestion was made that States combine support complaints and go to ASIWPCA and/or ECOS
- It seems that most pressing support need is in the initial transfer of data into STORET from an existing system, not the day-to-day operation of STORET (Ohio EPA)
- EPA Regions should attempt to acquire money from other programs (i.e. TMDLs,) to aid in STORET support
- Problem may be that STORET is not a mandated system like SDWIS or AIRS – not given equal support

#### Open Q/A and Comment Period

1. Will STORET 2.0 have ability to store lake vertical profiles? (Utah)
  - Yes.
2. Can we get a release date for the STORET 2.0 package? (FL DEP)
  - No release date set at this time. Hope to have cd's ready by end of year but probably sometime after the New Year.
3. Can groundwater data be imported through SIM 1.2.2? (FL DEP)
  - Yes, though not all aspects of describing well stations are present.
4. Has the STORET Listserv been converted to a web-based listserv yet? (NJ)

- **No. Should happen before end of this year. Major changes include new posting address, ability to read emails over the web and search through archived emails.**
- 5. **Can 3<sup>rd</sup> party applications have a place on the STORET website for others to use? (NJ)**
  - **Yes. STORET team will design a page where 3<sup>rd</sup> party applications can be posted.**
- 6. **Will SIM 2.0 differ greatly from SIM 1.22? (FL DEP)**
  - **No. The only difference will be that SIM 2.0 will be designed to operate with a STORET 2.0 database.**
- 7. **Can toxicity results be stored in STORET 2.0?**
  - **Yes, but in terms of results only, can't store details about testing yet.**
- 8. **STORET does not seem to have the ability to allow multiple organizations to monitor the same station. (TX)**
  - **No immediate response from anyone, this issue would need to be investigated further.**
- 9. **Can EPA conduct training via the web or video-conferencing?**
  - **Not at this time, EPA/HQ doesn't have the facilities for this type of training.**
- 10. **Is there a Frequently Asked Questions list available? (NY)**
  - **There is one on the STORET web site, though it isn't updated all that frequently.**

**Participants on call (based on who emailed storet@epa.gov)**

Lee Manning	US EPA HQ
Bob King	US EPA HQ
Kevin Christian	US EPA HQ
Cary McElhinney	US EPA HQ
Karen Klima	US EPA HQ
Eric Wilson	US EPA – Region 9
Paul Koska	US EPA – Region 6
Bob Barber	US EPA – Region 7
Karen Rush	US EPA – Region 7
Stu Ross	US EPA – Region 5
Ronell Haney	US EPA – Region 5
David Chestnut	South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control
Arne Sjodin	Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment
Mary Ann Silagy	Ohio EPA
Michael Slattery	Ohio EPA
James R. Adkins	West Virginia Division of Water Resources
Stephen Hale	US EPA – ORD
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Russell Kunibe	AK Department of Environmental Conservation
Thomas R. Dallaire	MA DEP
Julie Utter	FL DEP
Arne Hultquist	Utah
Paul Morton	NJ DEP
Geoff Smith	Delaware River Basin Comm.
Linda Cartwright	TN DEC
Otto Gutenson	US EPA HQ
Chris Decker	US EPA – Region 4
Jim Porter	MN Pollution Control Agency
Cathy Anderson	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Nancy Ragland	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Elizabeth Fawcett	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Brandon Harris	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Dawn Anderson	Montana DEQ
Deb Dorland	Montana DEQ