

STORET/WQX Conference Call – December 1, 2011, 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time

Introduction (Kristen Gunthardt)

- The minutes from all previous conference calls are available over the web: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/confcalls.html>
- The next scheduled call will be January 2012. The exact date will be emailed via the list server when the call gets closer.
- Please email storet@epa.gov and let EPA know you have attended the call so that meeting rosters may be kept.
- If you have a special topic you'd like to lead for an upcoming call, please email Gunthardt.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov
- EPA would like to hear comments you have on the quality of these conference calls. Please send them to storet@epa.gov
- Please subscribe to the STORET automated listserver for announcements regarding conference calls: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/listserv.html>

STORET Warehouse Data Issues Update – Kristen Gunthardt

- We have some confusion with how detection limits come out of the warehouse. Detection limits are not being served out correctly.
- When people submit detection limits in WQX you have the ability to provide multiple quantitation limit types.
- Because data is served out in a flat file you can't serve it back out without duplicating rows because of the multiple quantitation limit types
- People are also finding that their units are not necessarily coming out of the warehouse.
- If you do put in a detection limit, at various time the value and unit are concatenated in the detection limit coming out of the warehouse.
- These have been a priority for us. Our developers are working on these issues, as well as the attachment issue. We are working on making sure that the attachments are coming out of the warehouse.
- We will be amending the way we handle detection limits coming out of the warehouse. We are making sure that the unit and value are not concatenated, as well as serving out all of the limits out of the warehouse.
- We want to raise that our main objective is to add a new column to the STORET warehouse that will concatenate the detection levels and description names, units and values in one column. There will be no change to the way you submit data. Will be a comma delimited column. For example if you provide us with a method detection level, upper quantification level, and lower quantification level, those are 3 separate levels which will be concatenated and all come out each time.
- Sue McCarthy from Region 10 asked: Is there going to be an issue with the delimiter being a column? Kristen Gunthardt said that they were wondering about that and asked if anyone submits different levels or limit values that would have a comma in them.
- Sue McCarthy from Region 10 asked for a proposal on what this will look like.
- Sue McCarthy from Region 10 asked if this will affect the webservices or the new Portal. Kristen Gunthardt responded: This is a longer term discussion. The SOAP services served out of the warehouse should not be affected. However, we need to discuss the EPA/USGS services. This is a recent internal discussion We have not discussed it with the USGS partners. It would affect in terms of those services using the new column and pulling them out and put the new column on the outbound side. Kevin Christian commented that USGS and the mini portal currently have mapped, they are referencing the detection limit column and the quantification limit columns and putting them out in the WQX format. This new column will

capture the 1-to-many relationship that is truly compatible to the WQX schema. This should be seem-less to the users. This will not impact the result measure qualifier.

STORET System Components Conversion to WebLogic/OFM Update – Kristen Gunthardt

- If you did not listen in on October's User call, there was a discussion on the different STORET System components off of the Oracle Application Server platform, the SOAP service endpoints will be changing.
- When you go to the STORET Warehouse interface, the endpoint URL will have changed.
- This won't be too much of an issue for use of the STORET Warehouse interface, but will affect use of the SOAP Services. The USGS/EPA web REST services will not be affected.

One-to-Many Issues within WQX and the STORET Warehouse – Kristen Gunthardt

- Users are able to associate Activities to multiple projects. You may have a sample that is associated with 2 different projects (ex. Ambient monitoring project and a special project). Sample is associated with both projects on input.
- We have to serve the data out as flat file, but can be an issue because it ends up served out duplicated, once for each project.
- To avoid this, we propose to concatenate multiple project IDs for an Activity in the Project ID field. For example, beaches users associate Activities to 2 projects, EPABEACH and Beach ID. Those 2 projects would be delimited by a comma in that field.
- We see less of an issue with a comma in this area, as most people use project IDs that are character strings without special characters or spaces.
- Bill Kramer commented that in Beaches we have situations where a station and therefore an Activity is associated with multiple Beaches, therefore multiple project IDs. Is the number of projects limited? Kristen Gunthardt responded that you can have up to 100 project in that field, as it has been expanded.
- Please provide feedback immediately, as we want to make this fix immediately. It is causing duplicate records to come out of the warehouse.
- One comment was about the potential length of the field. Kristen Gunthardt mentioned that the field was expanded to VarChar with 4000 characteristics. Kevin Christian added that this field is only for reporting data out. If you had a Activity associated with 100 different projects, there is a lookup table that would hold the relationship of 100 projects. It is not a restraint on the function of querying, but just a way to report out to the user that the result is related to 100 different projects.
- Bill Kramer asked if there is some indication of spill-over of content in response to a query to indicate that there is more data than the output report field can contain? Kevin Christian responded that for most columns that we haven't had the need, but now that we are going to flat-file 1-to-many relationships in a single column, we may want to somehow indicate that the response has exceeded the field.
- Paul Morton asked if it was considered to use a delimiter other than a comma to avoid problems when importing a file into Excel. Kristen Gunthardt responded that in the past we used tilde delimiter (~), but if there are other suggestions, we are open. Kevin Christian also re-iterated the need for feedback on this. Currently we serve out tab as the delimiter, as it is the default of spreadsheets. Hopefully, it won't be an issue because when you bring in Tab, you don't have comma checked, as well. Paul

Morton suggested using the tilde, vertical bar, or semicolon would be a good choice for concatenated field. Sue McCarthy recommended not using a comma for this. A vertical bar was suggested, as it is rarely used.

STORET Team Transition News – Kristen Gunthardt

- **As of mid-January Kristen Gunthardt will be leaving the STORET team. As of January other members of the team will be leading the call. Her last day will be January 13th.**
- **Charles Kovatch will be transitioning in to the STORET team and introduced himself.**
- **Kristen will be working with Hazardous Waste-specific data system with the RCRA Info program.**

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

Andrea Thomas	North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Donald Kean	North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Bill Kramer	EPA HQ
Richard Frazier	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Michael Whitman	West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Jim Hudson	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Sue McCarthy	EPA R10
Paul Koska	EPA R6
Paul Morton	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Eric Wilson	Gulf Coast STORET, LLC
Deb Soule	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Bruce Tuttle	Idaho Department of Water Resources
Amy Wesley-Snider	RTI International
Vilma Quant	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Rebecca James	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Lisa Schwenning	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Terry Frohm	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Lemonteh Horne	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Kyle Ferris	Florida Department of Environmental Protection