STORET Conference Call – March 27, 2003 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time

Introduction (Cary McElhinney)
- **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 May 1, 2003 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time. Call in number is (202) 260-7280 access code 8650#**
- **If you have a special topic you'd like to lead for an upcoming call, please email mcelhinney.cary@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**

Update from STORET Team (Cary McElhinney and Lee Manning)
STORET 2.0
- **STORET v2.0 is now final and officially released**
- **Send an email to storet@epa.gov with your mailing address if you are interested in one or more copies.**
- **STORET v2.0 comes as a two disc set, one for installing the database and Data Entry Application, the other for installing the Report Module and Oracle products needed to run SIM.**
- **Full installation, user, and reference documentation exist on the cd's**
- **SIM v2.0 is not yet final. We hope to wrap up testing in the next week or so and post the application on the STORET website for download.**
Progress on redesign of central STORET Warehouse
- **We are finalizing the design of a warehouse structure that will enable downloads of standard chemistry and field observation results.**
- **We will be adding the ability to download bio results in a later version**
- **Testing on this beta design should begin over the next few weeks. We hope to have something to show to the larger community at the end of April or early May.**
- **Like the previous design, which allowed station description downloads, this will be a "snapshot" of the existing production warehouse. We will continue to incorporate updates to the current production warehouse.**
Upcoming STORET Training Sessions
- **Training sessions for STORET v2.0 will soon be announced and posted to the STORET website**
- **Users familiar with aspects of STORET v1.2 will find that a training session for v2.0 probably isn't necessary as not much has changed with regards to main functionality**
- **Training for v2.0 will be geared for new users and will cover all aspects of the STORET System.**
- **For the near future, training will be hosted in Washington, DC due to lack of travel funds. Hopefully a few sessions in EPA Region offices can be arranged in the eastern US. Eric Wilson and Marty McComb will be hosting training sessions in the western US.**
STORET v3.0 Requirements and Development Meetings
- **The STORET HQ Team will be announcing shortly the dates for development meetings on v3.0. At this point, looking like early summer for first round of meetings in Washington, DC.**
- **These meetings are intended to collect new requirements for future versions of STORET**

<u>Special Topic: Lab Remarks</u>
<u>Led by Lee Manning of EPA/HQ</u>
- The STORET Listserver has been active lately over the topic of Lab Remarks and the inability to batch load lab remark data in either the Batch Module or SIM
- STORET Team confirms this and apologizes for the oversight in not allowing batch capability for lab remarks. We will look into this for upgrades to the STORET software…probably SIM
- A short-term solution would be to batch in the lab remark data into the Result Comments field. Then, a script could be written to copy or move lab remark data into the proper STORET table.
- The STORET Team will attempt to write such a script and post it to the STORET website for users to use
- During the discussion, it was found that two separate lab remark descriptions have identical codes. We got the list of lab remarks from the EPA Superfund office, so we will need to investigate further to determine where the error was introduced. That list will be corrected in a future database upgrade
- It has also been brought up by some users that the current list of lab remarks may not be complete. This is one of the many "reference" lists that users can't change locally, but certainly can suggest new items to extend the list.

<u>Open Q/A and Comment Period</u>
1. Why when using Report Module v1.2 do I get blank export files for the Result Details report? (NC)
- We have seen that error before. It usually occurs in very large databases and can be solved by adjusting various database parameters to account for the large amounts of data queried by the Report Module. STORET team will post suggestions on how to extend your database should this failed report occur.
2. Is the current thinking in relation to taxonomic hierarchy subject to change? (Utah)
- This is a highly debated topic amongst biologists, and we certainly aren't going to solve it here or in our lifetime. STORET v2.0 includes the entire Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) along with its inherent hierarchy to account for most of all recognized species and for search purposes. It is generally assumed that both ITIS and STORET will continue to treat taxonomic hierarchy as is for the foreseeable future.
3. Is there support for lake profile data in STORET v2.0? (Utah)
- STORET v2.0 supports data from portable data loggers in the batch module and in the ability to store the output file from the data logger session.
4. If I migrate my v1.2 data to v2.0, will I be able to send exports to the STORET Warehouse and have them included? (Utah)
- Not at the present time, but will have this ability very soon. We will have a window where we will accept both v1.2 and v2.0 exports, but will eventually insist that all v1.2 users migrate to v2.0.
5. What's the status of another STORET User Conference? (Utah)
- At this point, we did not receive funding to host another user conference. We will continue to express to our management the importance of such a conference, and keep you posted.
6. Would it be possible to send out a questionnaire form for STORET v3.0 requirements? (FL DEP)

- Yes, since it's unlikely that we will get to meet with every user about v3.0 requirements, we will send out a requirements form this summer to go along with the meetings we'll be hosting in Washington, DC.

7. With ongoing USGS/STORET agreements to make data look similar, will there be a crosswalk developed for old parameter codes and current characteristics? (FL DEP)
- Goal of USGS/STORET agreement is to create a common "view" of STORET and NWIS data. There is now a commitment to do so, but no funding has been allocated thus far to that work.
- NJDEP and the USGS-Trenton office are working now to do this type of work as they transfer USGS collected data to NJDEP's copy of STORET
- EPA will be meeting soon with NJDEP and USGS-Trenton and will report on progress and share ideas

8. Does anyone have any experience/advice to share about the potential migration of tentatively identified compound (TIC) data to STORET? (OH EPA)
- No one responded, so it was suggested that the question be posed to the STORET Listserver.

9. Ohio EPA is interested in talking with folks about enhancements to STORET in regards to ground water data. A possible ground water "working group" may be formed in the near future. Look for announcements on the STORET Listserver.

10. A question came up about how best to document "non-detects" in STORET because they show up as "0" in database exports. Should we provide disclaimers or caveats to let the public know that numeric data that they retrieve from STORET is incorrect with respect to non-detect data? The problem, of course, is that a non-detect (character field) is transformed to a zero in a numeric column. But 0.0 is not an analytical result, and is at best misleading, and at worst, implies the non-existence of a parameter which may or may not be there in the first place. This may seem like nit picking, but wrong is wrong, and ultimately we (the data owners) are the ones who have the responsibility to deal with the aftermath of the public having unfettered access to our data. Especially when the data do not correctly represent the actual lab analysis. A different data model will be chosen for STORET v3.0. Whether the data show up as zeros is a matter of how they are formatted then called upon, and which data are queried (char vs. numeric).

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

Lee Manning	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
Karen Rush	US EPA – Region 7
Heather Barnhart	US EPA – Region 2
Mary Ann Silagy	Ohio EPA
Michael Slattery	Ohio EPA
Jay H. Sauber	NC Division of Water Quality
Donald Kean	NC Division of Water Quality
James R. Adkins	West Virginia Division of Water Resources
Dean Tucker	National Park Service
Thomas R. Dallaire	MA DEP
Michael E McCary	AL DEM

Mike Lund	Umpqua National Forest
Julie Utter	FL DEP
Karen Bickford-Ropes	FL DEP
Nancy Lewis	FL DEP
Jay Silvanima	FL DEP
Deb Soule	NH DES
Paul Morton	NJ DEP
Roger E. Stewart	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Porter	MN Pollution Control Agency
Arne Hultquist	Utah
Deb Dorland	Montana DEQ
Dave Wilcox	Gold Systems
Bruce Tuttle	Idaho Dept of Water Resources
Mike Butler	Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
Patrick Detscher	Acclaim Systems Inc.