

STORET Conference Call – November 16, 2006, 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 December 2006. The exact date will be emailed via the listserver later this month.
- 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>

Characteristics Discussion

- Several months ago, the STORET team made the decision to move to the SRS characteristic methodology. However, STORET tracks more than just substances. We have been working with SRS to identify and update the naming methodology for different substances (e.g., N, P, C series). For example, nitrates and phosphates can be measured in different forms. SRS tracks Nitrate as one characteristic. We are proposing to track the different measuring methods by reporting it in the unit (e.g. nitrate as N would report as the characteristic nitrate, and the unit would be mg/l as N). USGS does it this way.
- To query data, you would download the characteristic and the units. It would have to be separated out by unit.
- We are proposing that characteristic names and units in the current warehouse will not go through the conversion process. It will complicate the querying process, but we are concerned about altering current data. We will ask this question on the listserve to see how the user community feels about a translation.

Water Quality Exchange (WQX)

- The final WQX Schema is now available on the exchange network at www.exchangenetwork.com and on the STORET website at http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx_products/. This schema incorporates the latest system and business rules updates.
- We have successfully been able to query, solicit, and load data using WQX. The loading rate is about 47 results/sec, approximately 4x faster than SIM.
- The STORET team would like to thank you for the great test files that have been used to test WQX.
- The WQX release date for physical/chemical data submissions is scheduled for January 31, 2007.
- Solicitation for proposals for Exchange Network grants are due November 20th.

2007 STORET WQX Users Conference

- The 2007 STORET/WQX Users Conference will be held in November 2007. The location has not been determined yet, but we will keep you up to date as plans begin to solidify.

Open Q/A and Comment Period

- Q: Regarding the potential changes to reporting analysis methods in the units; will it be possible to choose other unit scales (e.g., µg/L or ng/L)? (CO)

- A:** At the moment, the STORET team is in favor of choosing one reporting scale per analysis method in order to coordinate the data warehouse results as much as possible.
- Q:** Should we put the units in mg/L as P and mg/L as phosphate? (OH)
- A:** It may be a slippery slope. For phosphate measured as phosphorus, the units column will read “mg/L as P” however the units column for phosphate will simply read “mg/L”.
- Q:** Is the sample fraction a different column? (OH)
- A:** Yes.
- Q:** Have the well tables been incorporated in WQX yet? SIM and WQX are completely broken for well information with SIM 1.2. Where do we stand with a way to move data into the warehouse? (OH)
- A:** Currently we are tackling data elements for biological and habitat data. It will be January before we are ready to investigate wells and groundwater submissions using WQX. The STORET team will check to see if a SIM fix is in the pipeline.
- Q:** When will the biological and habitat portion of WQX be completed? (OH)
- A:** It will be done in May 2008. We will begin piloting in the spring and are currently looking at the USFW and the National Fish Habitat Initiative to investigate data standards and data templates for fish and some habitat standards.
- Q:** Will data migration tools be available for states that utilize the standardized STORET data format? (MD)
- A:** We are currently developing a system that will work to replace STORET for Region 8. We will post more information as it becomes available.
- Q:** Is EPA looking to give our data back from the warehouse in an XML format? (MD)
- A:** We have a draft Oracle package capable of converting warehouse data to XML files, but the changes that were made over the past few months to domain values (such as station and activity type) must be updated to produce a viable WQX XML file. We are also working on pulling data out of the warehouse and converting to XML files.

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

James F. Hudson	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Andrea Thomas	NC DWQ
John Beebe	NCASI
Roger E. Stewart	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jolene Berscheid	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
MaryAnn Silagy	Ohio EPA
Mike Slattery	Ohio EPA
Jim Porter	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Deb Soule	NH DES
Thomas R. Dallaire	MassDEP, DWM
Elizabeth A. Florom	SC DHEC
Arne Sjodin	Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment
Mellony Hoskinson	RTI International
Jennifer Schimek	RTI International
Mike Matz	National Park Service Water Resources Division
Julie Zimmerman	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Jeff Townsend	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Amanda Dorsett	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Vilma Quant	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Kathy Byrd	Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Kevin Christian
Dwane Young
Rome Arquines
Kristen Gunthardt

EPA HQ
EPA HQ
EPA HQ
EPA HQ