

## **STORET Conference Call – September 30, 2004 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 Thursday, October 28, 2004 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time. Call in number is (202) 275-0170 access code 1813#.
- 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)
- EPA would like to hear comments you have on the quality of these conference calls. Please send them to [storet@epa.gov](mailto:storet@epa.gov)
- Please subscribe to the STORET automated listserv for announcements regarding conference calls: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/listserv.html>

### **National STORET Users Conference**

- To be held November 15-17 in New Orleans, LA.
- Registration is still open.
- About 20 abstracts have been submitted. EPA is currently getting the agenda put together into workgroups and logical sessions. The updated agenda will be available in the next week or so, including presentation titles. Updates to the agenda will be sent out on the list serve and also posted on the website.
- EPA is still accepting presentations and registrations.
- If you have any comments or suggestions for the conference, please let Cary know at [storet.gov](http://storet.gov).
- Updates will be coming soon.

### **Reference Table Upgrade**

- Latest reference table upgrade was issued a few weeks ago (September 8, 2004). It is called DBFIX016.
- Included in the update are new/corrected Taxonomic names. This is a big improvement for those working with biomonitoring data.
- This is a relatively large download, about 20mb, so it may take a little time to download.

### **Changes at Headquarters**

- Cary McElhinney will be leaving the headquarters office and moving to the Region 5 office in Chicago, IL. He will be keeping his same job duties as he has now. This will just be a physical office change.
- EPA HQ has hired Joe Wilson. He comes to EPA from the private sector. He has data warehousing and design experience. Joe will be at the conference in New Orleans, so you can meet him there.

### **Data Warehouse Refresh Schedule**

- The on-line data warehouse is having some difficulties. A message went out yesterday that there are some oracle problems.
- The query through forms using a particular date is not working as it should. There are also some mapping application difficulties with Window to My Environment and Enviromapper.
- We will make an announcement when these problems are fixed.

### **Open Q/A and Comment Period**

1. Will EPA be sending notification about accepted abstracts on October 1? (AK)
  - Virtually everyone is accepted and more information will be sent out today or tomorrow.
2. For the 50 people who are getting EPA assistance to attend the conference, how do we go about making arrangements? (NM)
  - The consultants we are working with on this will contact those people with an overview of the flight and hotel reservations.
  - We are working with the regional coordinators to identify those 50 people. Air travel and hotel will be paid up front. Meals will be reimbursed. There will be paperwork on this when you arrive

- in New Orleans. Other incidentals such as cab fares, etc., we are hoping will be paid for by the attendee.
- Registration is critical for us to know. So, please register.
3. How many people have registered? (Region 9)
    - About 60 or so. We had about 120 at the last conference, and we are expecting there to be about that many this year.
  4. Technical question: When preparing a file to load into SIM for results, do you have to have characteristic groups or can you enter characteristic names directly? (AK)
    - You can directly add characteristic names, but you will also have to include other information such as units. We recommend using characteristic groups, because there will be less data to enter.
  5. In regards to conditional fields, is there a certain place to look up how the conditional fields are assigned? (AK)
    - There is not a specific document stating this information, but the Data Entry Module should be able to help clarify this. Also in version 2, the details button will help you figure out what you need.
  6. We are collecting data from multiple volunteer groups, so we are dealing with a lot of characteristics. Would characteristic groups still be advantageous? (AK)
    - We are looking at software that would be able to copy the Preferences and Defaults data from one organization to another.
  7. Would this be applicable to chemical and biological data?
    - Yes, both.
  8. If we have already loaded stations into STORET, can we upload additional data to those stations using SIM?
    - No, you will have to go in through the STORET module to make changes/additions to already migrated data.
    - You can also leave data in SIM and make changes before migrating to STORET, but this can cause some difficulties.
    - We are working on identifying change and delete functions in SIM, but this is in the very preliminary stages, so don't expect to see this any time soon.
    - In New Orleans, we will be discussing what is on the top of the list for changes to STORET and SIM.
  9. We have had good success with uploading chemical data without using characteristic groups. We have also created a template of what fields are necessary. We can make this available to anyone who would like to see it. If you would like a copy email Cecil Severs at [cecil\\_severs@nmenv.state.nm.us](mailto:cecil_severs@nmenv.state.nm.us). (NM)

**Participants on call (based on who emailed [storet@epa.gov](mailto:storet@epa.gov))**

Cary McElhinney	US EPA HQ
Joe Wilson	US EPA HQ
Lee Manning	US EPA HQ
Eric Wilson	US EPA Region 9
Larry Merril	US EPA Region 3
Deb Soule	NH DES
Dianne Denson	AK DEC
Jim Porter	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Dean Tucker	National Park Service
Mary Ann Silagy	OH EPA
Mellony Hoskinson	RTI
Deb Dorland	MT
Erik Leppo	Tetra Tech
Jeff White	Tetra Tech
Cecil Severs	NM
Linda Cartwright	TN DEC
Erica Johnson	SC DHEC
Donald Kean	NC DENR

Andrea Thomas  
Cathy Anderson  
Julie Lee

NC NENR  
TX CEQ  
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