

STORET/WQX Conference Call – September 18, 2008, 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 October 2008. 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>

WQXWeb

- The results of the naming contest for the WQX XML Generation Tool are in. The new name of the tool is WQXWeb.
- WQXWeb is now in its final stages of development and will be deployed to the test environment next week. We anticipate deployment in late October.
- WQXWeb will be deployed in the CDX web environment. Users can interact with the tool by logging in to CDX.
- Please send the STORET team an email if you would like to be involved in beta-testing the tool in mid October.
- If you would like a basic overview of the tool layout, mockup pages have been posted at http://www.epa.gov/storet/xml_gen_tool.html.

WQX 2.0 Status and Upcoming changes

- The WQX 2.0 schema is now in the production environment. Users will be able to test the schema with a current NAAS account and WQX ID.
- There have been no submissions yet, but there are some datasets that are currently being finalized for submission.
- Resources have been posted on the website to help users implement WQX 2.0 at http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx_downloads.html.
- WQX 1.0 is still a valid production environment. Both the WQX 1.0 and WQX 2.0 schemas are valid and can be used for submissions to WQX. Upgrade to WQX 2.0 is not required at this time.

OEI Final Solicitation Notice for Exchange Network Grant

- U.S. EPA has released the final FY 2009 Exchange Network Grant Solicitation Notice. Information is available on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/grants>.
- The application deadline for FY2009 Exchange Network grants is November 21, 2008.

Web services with USGS

- We have been working with USGS for a year to create web services that serve up data from STORET and USGS in compatible formats.
- USGS is close to finalizing NWIS web services. Once the web services are available, USGS and EPA has to evaluate these services for gaps in compatibility before services will be considered final.
- User will be able to call both STORET and NWIS in the same formats so that data from both programs can easily be compared and combined for analysis. Even the characteristic names have been mapped for compatibility.

- Once the services are deployed, we will work on cataloging services.

Activities for FY 2009

- FY2008 was the end of our development effort and we are ready to begin looking ahead at FY2009.
- September 2009 is the last month for the STORET data dumps. This will allow us to incrementally update the warehouse instead of performing a refresh every month as with STORET. Whenever possible, we will be available to help states needing support to transition from STORET. Please contact us to set up a transition plan.
- We will be making fairly minor but significant warehouse updates over the coming year to serve all of the WQX data elements from the warehouse (e.g., metrics).
- We are planning to finalize the USGS compatibility project during FY 2009.
- If funding available, we will look at more serving up information options, such as additional web services. Please send us an email if you have any suggestions.

ArcIMS web mapping

- We are working with Geospatial Team so that users can view and access geospatial layers and any associated attribute data with any user application. More information to follow soon.

Q and A

- Q:** Are the parameter codes available for download from USGS? (ID)
- A:** When the web service is released in two weeks, these parameter codes will be available on the web site.
- Q:** Will unit codes be standardized on the NWIS side? (EPA R10)
- A:** Send these issues to the STORET team and we will talk about it during our meetings. The parameter codes have already been mapped.
- Q:** How often are locations updated in NWIS (ID)?
- A:** The main NWIS data warehouse is updated every few weeks, however updates must first be made by USGS local offices. The update times for the local offices vary by office.
- Q:** Is there a way to download the list of CAS numbers associated with Characteristics Names in order to map characteristics? (R10)
- A:** At least at one point, it was possible to solicit the request from the Exchange Network if you have a valid exchange network account, however it is not straightforward because it doesn't return the result immediately. The option was listed under cross media. Dwane will check on the availability of this option. If it exists, Dwane will post the results in a flat file on the STORET web site as well as instructions on how and where to solicit the information independently.

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

Michael J. Whitman	West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Lisa Peacock	GA DNR
Nate Booth	U.S. Geological Survey
Bill Kramer	US EPA Beaches Program
Roger E. Stewart	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Linda Cartwright	TDEC
Jolene McQuillan	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Andrea Thomas	NC DWQ

Deb Soule
Jim Porter
Dave Ihrle
Thomas R. Dallaire
James F. Hudson
Larry Merrill
Stan Stephansen
Bruce Tuttle
Jennifer Cuhaciyian
Erik W. Leppo
Vilma Quant
Dan Marelli
Lisa Schwenning
Edwin Abbey
Lemonteh Horne

NH Department of Environmental Services
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
MassDEP, DWM
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
EPA R3
EPA R2
Idaho Dept of Water Resources
Idaho Dept of Water Resources
Tetra Tech
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Department of Environmental Protection