

## STORET/WQX Conference Call – September 23, 2010, 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 2010. The exact date will be emailed via the list server when the call gets closer.
- Please email [storet@epa.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:storet@epa.gov)
- Please subscribe to the STORET automated listserver for announcements regarding conference calls: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/listserv.html>

### New Monitoring Location Types in WQX – Kristen Gunthardt

- This is specifically for coastal waters. We realize this has the potential to affect various things. Want user feedback.
- Currently we have Mon Loc Types of Ocean or Great Lake, but no qualifiers for whether coastal or deep water.
- Had a request to add something to qualify as Coastal.
- We got feed back from National Coastal Conditional Assessment people. They have verified that we need to define what Coastal means and people might need to specify two types. There was also a concern that people would have to choose multiple monitoring location types when looking for this data.
- We will add Ocean-Coastal and Great Lake-Coastal.
- We realize that this means we are implicitly making the old types mean open water.
- We also realize that users may need to specify two monitoring location types to get what they want. This is new functionality in the warehouse. This can not currently be done using the current warehouse functionality.
- Question raised about Chesapeake Bay by MDE. Chesapeake Bay was not considered. Kristen said that we have location type Estuary. MDE has some concern about simply calling it Estuary. Chesapeake bay is really a special case.
- Craig at Lummi Nation mentioned Puget Sound and Straight of Georgia. These are very marine like, but not necessary Estuary. There should be guidance because you can't draw a line that easily between Estuary and Inland sea. It is a continuum. Might need to talk with program offices, ORD, or Environmental Monitoring and Assessment programs to help come up with ideas on this.
- Bill Kramer from EPA brought up depth as an element of description. Depth might be a parameter as a definition of condition. Nearshore runoff and circulation patterns might make something more coastal, rather than deep water. Craig from Lummi made the point that in the Straight of GA very deep water is very close to shore (over 1000 ft).
- John Thule of WA said Beaches program has these broken out. This might cause confusion of when you transition between the different types. When do you transition from Beach to Estuary to Ocean. This adds another wrinkle as far as searching across multiple location types. The Beach Program site was introduced for the Beaches program grant recipients, but the STORET Team realizes that this is confusing. Kevin Christian said that this might mean you have to filter by multiple station types. Pick more rather than less station types in query. Currently you can only choose 1 in

warehouse query. When you get into the grey zone about what to pick, choose more rather than less, then pull out what you don't need.

#### Organization Types in STORET – Kristen Gunthardt

- Talking about introducing groupings of Organization Types in STORET.
- The e-mail with the agenda items for this call contained a url ([http://www.epa.gov/storet/download/Draft\\_report\\_organization\\_type\\_assignment.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/storet/download/Draft_report_organization_type_assignment.pdf)) to look at the draft list of Organizations and their types, but we want feedback on this issue.
- Bill Kramer asked if there are definitions of the types? Some say US Government/State, which is presumed to be state data reported under a US Government program. Kevin said not currently in that report, but we will have to look at doing that. We will provide types and definitions.
- Jon Becker from Region 4 made a comment about the government types. US Government/Federal or US Government/State – It might make sense to switch these to be Federal/US Government or State/US Government because if you are looking for state data, the first way is not immediately obvious that it is state data. Kevin Christian said that he would change these around.
- Bill Kramer recommended US Territories to be added to an Organization Type. This would be Territory/US Government.
- Organization Description – use the phrase Water Quality Monitoring and Water Monitoring interchangeably. The word Quality implies some sort of meaning or judgment. You might want to examine the implied meaning of the word quality in the description. Kevin answered that it is not intended to have an implied meaning.

#### Inputting Continuous Monitoring Data into WQX – Kristen Gunthardt

- Putting times series data into warehouse. There have been a lot of questions about it.
- We have an activity type of Field Msr/Obs – Portable Data Logger. This is to be used for probe or sensor output. The rule of this being used is that the user places a data logger line name next to the result, which is a date/time stamp. Alternatively summary statistics may be entered for some time period as a mean and standard deviation and then possibly attached logger data as an attachment. EPA does not have a preference. Depends on the amount of data that you do have. WQX schema was not truly designed to flow a large amount of time series data, ie. a large amount of close time series data.
- We are discussing the possibility of a new schema other than WQX to handle continuous monitoring information. That is probably about a year out.
- Would this be an integrated schema or a separate schema from WQX? Kristen mentioned that it would probably be a separate schema, but could be a sub-component of WQX, as well.

#### WQX Enhancements – Kristen Gunthardt

- We are having some down time in the Test environment, but is up and running now. The production environment was not affected.
- This is because we are putting performance enhancements into the data flow. This deals with performance in the data flow, particularly the pending status. There is now a load balancing data which will help que data submissions. This will help avoid Pending status.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> enhancement is to the taxa list that comes out from the query and solicit services of the WQX data flow. Better serving user community by serving

- out ITIS TSN # (Taxonomic Serial Number). TSN is captured in WQX Domain value table.
- Can also query out URL to ITIS to get entire hierarchy of Taxon. This also comes out when you query using the query and solicit services.
  - The final enhancement is enhanced tracking of last change date and transaction IDs. Supports future administration reporting from STORET Data Warehouse. Does not affect data submissions in any way.
  - Are there any plans to let state people see their data in the Test Environment? Query and solicit services will pull data from the test database. See WQX Flow Configuration Document.
  - Is it useful to follow up about query and solicit services on a future call or have a call about how to use these services? Is it of interest to have a call to highlight the query and solicit services? CO and FL are both interested in this.
  - We want to be sure that people realize that when they submit to test environment before production, the test is not a black box. You can use query and solicit services to look at data.

**New STORET Warehouse Query Application Downloadable Data Element: “Administrative Submission/Change Record” – Kristen Gunthardt**

- New data element called “Administrative Submission/Change Record” has been added to the warehouse query application, where you pick the data elements that you get back from your query.
- This helps to see if data were changed recently.
- Kevin Christian said this element contains 3 data columns: Last Change Date, Last User ID that made change, and Transaction ID.
- Currently, until WQX enhancements are put into staging and production, only last change date is served out. We have to upgrade ETL to serve out all of these data. This is waiting on the WQX database to be updated, then INFORMATICA tool will be updated to update this in the warehouse.

**New Geospatial Services for STORET – Kristen Gunthardt**

- Deployed ability for users to consume spatial data in your own applications.
- We have deployed a web mapping service, as well as functionality to pull in a web feature service. This is deployed within WATERS. The url is: [http://www.epa.gov/waters/geoservices/docs/waters\\_mapping\\_services.html](http://www.epa.gov/waters/geoservices/docs/waters_mapping_services.html)
- 2 services: the Source Latitude/Longitude data for stations in STORET ([http://watersgeo.epa.gov/ArcGIS/rest/services/OWPROGRAM/STORET\\_NAD83/MapServer](http://watersgeo.epa.gov/ArcGIS/rest/services/OWPROGRAM/STORET_NAD83/MapServer)) and the Indexing to the 1:100,000 scale NHD ([http://watersgeo.epa.gov/ArcGIS/rest/services/OWRAD/STORET\\_WMERC/MapServer](http://watersgeo.epa.gov/ArcGIS/rest/services/OWRAD/STORET_WMERC/MapServer)).
- We will discuss further in the coming months.
- John Thule in WA asked: If we are assigning NHD reach codes and measures, is there a way to submit to WQX? Kristen said that we have discussed an NHD event data flow on exchange network. This allows users to flow NHD events. This is a separate data flow.
- John also was concerned because they are using Hires NHD, rather than medium resolution, which is what NHDPlus is.

**Q and A**

- Q:** Sue McCarthy of EPA R10 – Is Administrative Submission/Change Record going to be immediately in outbound services?
- A:** Kevin said that they are in the middle of changing contract vehicles. Right now we are concentrating on functionality, but will add to webservices in

- future. We have a project plan to merge or adopt webservice engine that USGS service has and it's ability to give out raw file and compressed files. This will be added to the webservice in the future.**
- Q: Bill in MT – Are the column names for the Administrative Submission/Change Record – are columns written in stone yet?**
- A: Kevin Christian said yes, Last\_Change\_Date, Last\_USERID, and Last\_TransactionID**
- Q: Sue McCarthy of EPA R10 – Are you using the input lat long or the converted Lat/Long in outbound webservices?**
- A: Kristen Gunthardt said they are using converted Lat/Long.**
- Q: How are you factoring elevation data into data in geospatial services?**
- A: Kristen Gunthardt – We will have to follow up with you about the conversion process. Please send e-mail.**

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

Jim Hudson	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Elizabeth Florum	South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Bruce Tuttle	Idaho Department of Water Resources
Sue McCarthy	EPA R10
Arne Sjodin	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Andrea Thomas	North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Mike Butler	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Eva Hays	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
John Tooley	Washington Department of Ecology
Lowell Carty	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Elaine Lake	Hawaii Department of Health
Paul Koska	EPA R6
Won Kim	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Rebecca Ross	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Elinor Zetina	Maryland Department of the Environment
Vilma Quant	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Rebecca James	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Lisa Schwenning	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Lemonteh Horne	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Siteria Gregory	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Dale Elliott	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Craig Dolphin	Lummi Nation Natural Resources Department
Jon Becker	EPA R4
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