

## STORET Conference Call – June 16th, 2005 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 August 4, 2005. Call in number is (202) 275-0170 access code 1910#
- 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>

### Update from STORET Team

#### Reference Table Upgrade

- A message was posted to the listserv on June 7, 2005 announcing the latest reference table upgrade.
- The major item in this upgrade is updates and changes to taxonomic names that we keep in sync with the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS).

#### Thoughts on Version 3

- Looking at a 34 year timeline before new version is available. EPA STORET is anticipating an evolution of current STORET system and not a revolution where an entirely new system will be developed. The focus will be on minimizing effects to current users and maximizing the ease of migration to the new version.
- ESAR pilot is on target and will conclude at the end of this calendar year.
- System enhancement goals include increased flexibility, improved data entry process, and basic analytical tools. Specific items mentioned were
  - developing a web interface so smaller users can get data into the system without having to run their own copy of Oracle/STORET,
  - improving data flow into STORET including streamlining the entry of lab data, and
  - Simplifying the extraction of data from STORET and including basic analytical tools to calculate max, min, average, etc. and perform simple mapping.
- Right now the focus is on STORET support but we are beginning the process of defining how to organize version 3 input sessions. This is the beginning of the dialog with the user community and as the process moves forward this group will be centrally involved. Participation and input will be solicited from current users as well as non-users.

### Open Q/A and Comment Period

1. There are large systems out there that are complex but easy to use, for example Amazon and Barnes and Nobles, why is it so hard to get the data needed out of STORET? (Dave Erie)
  - EPA STORET replied that the funds available for the STORET system compared to these systems are vastly different. The complexity of our data is different and the standards are still being defined. Even for USGS data the methodologies are standard and the data is collected by the same entity so the model is simpler. STORET is accommodating many different users, methodologies, and parameters.

2. MD has entered portable data logger through SIM. When they pull the results out of the STORET Warehouse or locally using the report module the data appears to be duplicated in the system. Review of the SIM text files import shows only one copy of the data. They have sent an email requesting help but have not heard back, (MD)
  - EPA STORET replied that they have received the email and will research the issue and get back to MD.
3. Can you give an update on Enviromapper and Windows to my Environment? Are there any plan to make legacy STORET, modernized STORET and NWIS data available from one source? Or are there any plans to migrate all legacy STORET data to modernized STORET?(NJ)
  - EPA STORET replied that they just finished mapping parameter codes in Legacy STORET to STORET characteristic names. Integration of the system cannot continue until this crosswalk is approved. The crosswalk will be available if anyone wants to review it. EPA is looking at update options for Enviromapper. EPA has no plans to migrate legacy STORET data into modernized STORET. The plan is to make all the data sets available from one system.
4. Are the toxic algae in the STORET list yet? (Dave Erie)
  - No one was sure, but let EPA STORET know if they aren't and they will get them in.
5. MD wants to add in additional reference tables into STORET, is this going to be a problem? (MD)
  - EPA STORET replied that MD could add in tables either in the existing STORET schemas or in a new schema. Any additional tables submitted with their data would be ignored by EPA.
6. Are you looking into using something like SEDD (Staged Electronic Data Deliverable) for future versions of STORET?
  - Definitely looking at what our Superfund program has accomplished with SEDD and getting data directly from labs to other places. Once we can finalize the work on the ESAR data standard and analyze the results from the OWWQX (CDX) Pilot, we'll have a better understanding of how to define a data deliverable for ambient water quality data.