

Pennsylvania's STORET Experience: Its successes and failures in system implementation and data upload.

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The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been using and inputting water quality data into the STORET system since the early 1970s. At that time, data input was time-consuming, cumbersome, and data retrieval was difficult. In 1999, with the creation and implementation of the new STORET system, changes occurred with the way DEP interfaced with the STORET system. By early spring 2002, a total overhaul and cleanup of the Department's internal water quality databases was conducted with the end goal of once again uploading data to the new STORET system. This presentation focuses on the Department's method of data storage and retrieval, the new STORET system setup, the metadata aspect of the system, the overall maintenance of the system and the processes used to take the data from the Department's database to conversion and eventual upload to the Modernized STORET system. It will also focus on the successes and failures encountered in each of these areas along the way and explain how the Department is again submitting quarterly uploads of quality assured/quality controlled water quality data to EPA across a variety of data types including fish tissue data, monthly water chemistry data and annual lake data. Finally, it will focus on the end users of the water quality data and how the STORET system has greatly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of downloading and distributing this information to internal DEP personnel, other local, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, consultants and the general public.