

## **Moderated Discussion: “Directions and Priorities for the Future of STORET”**

**Friday, November 9, 2001 8:00 am**

The following notes are recommendations from conference attendees to improve the implementation of STORET.

### 1) Training

- Provide PowerPoint training modules via website
- Use Regions/States to train
- Provide more in depth/hands-on training
- Travel to states, customize training
- Reinforce a “Train the Trainers” approach
- Conduct one-on-one training, not mass training
- Provide QA/QC Guide – web site, link to fields in STORET.
- Train EPA Regional coordinators for all database /types for whole process – regional people (states) should meet to share technical abilities – train coordinators in advance of new release.
- Investigate corporate partnering/foundations
- Post states’ top 5 mistakes in implementing STORET.
- Should be two levels of training: Implementation and Use
- Include grant requirements for training (PPA)
- Have one technical knowledge base person in each region
- Improve STORET training manual

### 2) Technical Issues

- Need more solutions for different platforms
- Focus to Client/Server

### 3) Communications

- Need to know more about STORET FTP site
- WISER STORET conference setup
- Let’s hear about success stories – post them on web.
- National Data Delivery Standard (LIMS)
- Share direction of STORET with users (version 2.0, 5 year plan – post on web)
- Formalize state coordinator information flow EPA → states and tribes
- FAQ on WISER to STORET web site
- Regular updates to FAQ
- Conference calls w/in Regions, whole organization (prefer electronic version).
- WISER questions should go out to experts/enrollment group rather than force users to visit the

site.

- Add WISER link to STORET page.
- Define how to use WISER and explain to users.
- Someone else besides Bob King and Lee Manning should update WISER/FAQ/web site – use more of the rest of the STORET team.
- Role of the EPA Regional Coordinator:
  - set up e-mail list of users
  - send out updates/info
  - use WISER room to communicate

#### 4) Technical Support

- Regional coordinators should share information regularly with their states – upcoming events
- Tap into states that are advanced
- Post names of “experts” on the web.
- Cross link info from other regions (training workshop etc) on HQ website.  
(Lee will put a link in the STORET “useful links” site to allow other sites to be hooked in on request)
- Get regional coordinators out to states – don’t do it all through e-mail.

#### 5) Regional Support/HQ

- Need upper management support at the state level
- Need upper level EPA support – spread out to rest of Agency then down.
- Add STORET member to Science Council Committee
- Add national estuary program to STORET world, don’t build own database – work with other such groups to stop building new WQ databases.
- Build political/legislative legitimacy for STORET
- Investigate possible changes to 303(d) and 305(b) language
- Need a 10-15 minute briefing package for managers
- Incorporate existing databases into STORET.
- Emphasize that many TMDLs based on LEGACY STORET – data are useful
- Need consistent message about use of EDAS, EQUIS, other products and direction.

#### 6) Database Developments

- Have user stakeholder group input on what to update and when
- Know modifications and schedule.
- Conduct beta testing

#### 7) Resources/FTEs

- Use CWA Section 319 and 106 money to get data into STORET

- Upper management needs to hear about lack of FTEs across divisions/agencies
- Present historical problem with funding and consequences to upper level management. Specifically, point out the impacts on contractors when funding is cut/delayed.
- Need a workgroup for creative funding (e.g. pooling resources, leverage, other money)
- Have states document why they don't have resources.
- Include monitoring data elements in grants approved by Regional coordinators.
- Look at future EPA staffing in terms of needs, science background w/ IT experience
- Get the top 10 datasets that are not in STORET into STORET.