



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 15 2003

OFFICE OF
WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Announcing Release of STORET Version 2.0

FROM: G. Tracy Mehan, III
Assistant Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Tracy Mehan, III".

TO: Regional Administrators
Great Water Body Directors

The Office of Water is pleased to announce the immediate availability of STORET (STORage and RETrieval system) Version 2.0. This new version of STORET will better enable our State, local, Tribal, and Federal partners to document their ambient water quality and biological monitoring activities.

I have made monitoring a high priority for FY 2003, and consider STORET to be our main repository for water monitoring data and a cornerstone of our data management activities and water program integration efforts. In fact, I have recently taken an important step in ensuring we have high quality data for results-based management by requiring that water monitoring data collected via any Office of Water contract, information collection request, or direct field activity be entered into STORET or provided in the ACWI (Advisory Committee on Water Information) Core Monitoring Data Element Standard. STORET plays a prominent role in many of your Regional partnership agreements, and I am sure that this new version, together with its improved bulk data entry component, will facilitate implementation of our agreements.

The Office of Water will host a one-week STORET Version 2.0 Train-the-Trainers session for Regional STORET Coordinators in Washington D.C. during the week of June 9, 2003. If at all possible, please encourage your Regional STORET coordinator to attend this important training event. Your Regional STORET coordinator should be the first point of contact for STORET inquiries in your States, and should be providing concise and accurate technical support to all your Regional partners. The Regional STORET Coordinator should also be organizing and participating in all Regional STORET Training activities. In fact, we have found that States, Interstate agencies, and our other monitoring partners are most likely to enter their data into STORET in those Regions where coordinators are able to devote at least 75 percent of their time to STORET support. This level of STORET coordination and support is working very well in Regions 8 and 9.

More information on our Train-the-Trainers session will be forthcoming shortly. We will also be posting a training schedule for Version 2.0 on our website at www.epa.gov/STORET. If you would like to discuss STORET further, please contact me or have your staff contact Charles Sutfin, Director, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, at (202) 566-1155, sutfin.charles@epa.gov.

Attachment

cc: OW Office Directors
Regional Water Management Division Directors
Regional Science and Technology Division Directors
State, Territory and authorized Tribal Water Program Directors
Regional Monitoring Coordinators
Regional STORET Coordinators

Kim Nelson, OEI
Gil Veith, ORD-RTP

STORET is a fundamental
underpinning of the National
Water Program. your
support is key!
Tracy