

AQS
and
The Exchange Network

June 2010

ECOS Resolution

March 23, 2009

- ECOS calls on U.S. EPA to join states in a renewed commitment to the Exchange Network by strongly encouraging state and U.S. EPA program offices to expeditiously adopt the Exchange Network as the preferred means of sharing environmental information across all program areas;

EPA Administrator Memo

July 7, 2009

- In response to the ECOPS resolution, I am asking for your continued commitment to achieving the Network's and now my, strategic vision that the Exchange Network will become the preferred way EPA, states, tribes, and others share and exchange data.

Statistics from EN Governance

- Six states are submitting AQS data via EN
- Eight states have discontinued AQS EN submissions
- Seven states plan to begin AQS EN submissions
- 15 States have no plan to begin AQS EN submissions
- 14 others are unspecified

EPA National Program Management Guidance

Using the resources developed in FY 2010,
regions should work with states to:

- Increase exchange network submissions to at least half of all state submissions per Region during 2011 (Calendar Year)
- Increase XML submissions to all or all but one of state submissions in each Region by 2012 (Calendar Year)

EPA NPM Guidance (Cont)

OAR Actions: As part of preparing this guidance EPA has examined the current process for submitting Air Quality data, and will do the following in FY 2011 to address potential obstacles to increased use of the exchange network:

- Modify software to simplify the EN submission work flow by eliminating the need for the current “two step” process of data submission and verification when using the EN;

AQS Program Response

- Understanding: The “two step process” is the current need to log into AQS and “load” the files submitted via CDX or the Exchange Network.
- Plan: Develop capability to automatically “load” submitted files.
 - AQSLOAD will launch automatically
 - If there are no errors, Stat/CR and Post will launch automatically.

Reporting Agency Impact

- Support for automatic AQS loading will require use of the Exchange Network (EN) Header to pass the Screening Group for the Submission.
- Use of the EN Header will require upgrade of the reporting agency's EN Node Software.
- The Solicitation notice for the FY 2011 EN Grants is expected in July, 2010. Support for Automatic Submission is expected to be a key factor for approval of AQS related grant applications.