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AQS Quarterly Newsletter



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Information Transfer and Program Integration Div
Information Management Group (919) 541-5586*

Special Interest Articles:

- AQS User Questionnaire Results
- AQS Conference Highlights
- User Support Issues
- AQS Web Rollout
- AQSP&A News
- AQS Reports
- AQS Top 30

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Welcome

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the AQS Quarterly Newsletter.

We are back from the AQS Conference with many good recommendations for improvement. Please see Jerry Husketh's article about the Conference and my article about what system changes we plan to make based on your recommendations.

We will soon begin implementing the web version of AQS with the agencies in RO 3. Nick Mangus' article discusses the status of the web work as well as our upcoming training plans. Bill



Frietsche has also launched the new application for generating AQS transactions for precision and accuracy data (AQSP&A). I hope you find these articles and others to be helpful to you.

Please let us know if there is something you would want us to include in future Newsletters

Ed Lillis

AQS User Questionnaire Part 1 - The AQS Application

At this year's conference you no doubt noticed that there was an additional questionnaire beyond those about the conference and training that have become tradition. The new one was about the AQS application and user support. We plan to continue to use the conference as an opportunity to get feedback from you on general issues through your comments directly to us, the priority lists from the breakout sessions, and the questionnaires. This article summarizes the responses for 2003.

There were 55 respondents, which is about half of the non-federal attendees at the conference. I'm not a statistician, but we'll assume this represents a good sample of users.

64% of you indicated that your job demands that you perform both loads and retrievals with AQS, with the remainder evenly split doing only uploads or retrievals.

When asked to rank the aspects of the application that need the most improvement, this is the order the eight items were placed in after all rankings were averaged:

1. On-line browsing and editing (maintain)
2. Report generation and criteria selection
3. Other (with a wide variety of responses)
4. Report formats
5. Raw data correct and post
6. The load process in general
7. Training, help, and support
8. Passwords and security

The average opinion of the load process was that it is between fair and good, while the retrievals and browsing were fair leaning toward poor.

The overall rating of the application was between fair and good, and 80% think the application works better now than a year ago.

Continued on next page



AQS User Questionnaire Continued

Thanks for taking the time to complete the survey. It helps inform us about your opinion of the application quantitatively and anonymously that we

have no other way of gauging. We think the results were very informative so plan on seeing a similar survey next year.

Nick Mangus



AQS Users at AQS Conference

AQS Conference in Review

By the time you read this, two months will have passed since we held the 13th Annual AQS Conference in Albuquerque, NM. In hindsight it was a good one. Perfect, no, but the evaluations score it as a very successful one. The hotel and city site selection seemed very accommodating to all who came. The break package succeeded in its goal of getting the attendees to the meeting rooms early to encourage interaction among AQS users and seemed to be well received. We didn't realize the need for diabetic diet items in time to make that correction but we will in the future. The caucuses were deemed highly productive, also. The event was a smashing success.

The training was a big hit. Was it flawless? No! We could have better managed the level of experience among students and not allowed the students who are much more familiar with the new AQS software to attend the Basics classes. This not only would have prevented serious overcrowding of the classroom but would have kept the level of questions and learning pace geared to the novices. We could have better screened the novice users and provided better facilitator/student ratios. We will consider offering a "novice only" course next year. You indicated on the evals we should have had a much more intense reports class. All in all, with hindsight always being 20/20, the training served its purpose well. The goal of familiarizing you with the new web version was achieved. Answering questions and giving one-on-one time where requested was noted as a huge success. I didn't get requests from the regional offices for private

RO/States/local agency gatherings this year but this is always a possibility since we always have a 24 hour hold on all the meeting rooms. Just ask me if I fail to announce it because I encourage these as much as I can to maximize the short time we're together each year.

I bet the question on your mind now is: Where next? Well, as I mentioned at the conference we should be heading east in the rotation across the country and Minneapolis AND Tampa are definitely east of Albuquerque. I've found a great Marriott Hotel in each of these cities but I haven't done anything formal at this point. I'm still paying bills and settling in from this conference. Also, the 5 year contract with my right hand contractor, SAIC expired May 3rd so now I have that problem to contend with. Each of the two Marriotts I've just mentioned has the same meeting room floor plan as the Salt Lake City conference did, which was ideal at that time. Problem is we no longer have the AFS folks meeting with us to bolster our "power player" numbers, which the hotels like to hear. At any rate, May 2004 should be a delightful time in either city and that's where my thoughts are right now. But then, I've never been to Maui!

Oh, before I close ...Remember I mentioned in Albuquerque that April was a must for personal reasons. Well, little Dalton came May 6, weighing in at 7 lbs. 4 oz., and you can judge for yourselves just how beautiful my first grandchild is. If you agree with me on this I'll buy you breakfast next May!

Stay tuned and more will be announced as plans develop to accommodate your travel budgets as best we can.

Jerry Husketh



*On May 6th, 2003,
Dalton Lee Husketh
arrived weighing 7
lbs 4 oz*



Dalton Lee Husketh

AQS User Support Questionnaire – Part 2 Customer Service / Helpline



There were eight User Support questions contained in Part 2 of the User Questionnaire that was distributed at the AQS Conference. Fifty-one conference attendees completed Part 2 of the questionnaire and provided us with an insight into the current level of support you are receiving. The results of this questionnaire have been shared with the EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI) and the contractor staff providing customer support.

All the questions (except for the last question) had the following answers to choose from: **Almost never**, **Sometimes**, **Half the time**, **Usually**, and **Almost always**. Here is a summary of the responses:

[1st Question] *Is your treatment when calling the Helpline courteous & professional?*

41% said they **Almost always** received courteous and professional treatment when calling the Helpline, and 55% said their treatment was **Usually** courteous & professional. Our goal is for each caller to receive courteous and professional treatment 100% of the time.

[2nd Question] *Are password problems resolved within 2 hours?*

18% said their password problems were **Almost always** resolved within 2 hours. 45% said their password problems were **Usually** resolved within 2 hours. The remaining 37% of responses were about equally divided among the **Half the time**, **Sometimes**, and **Almost never**. We recognize the importance of getting passwords reset in a timely manner. We are committed to improving this metric.

[3rd Question] *Are password problems resolved within 24 hours?*

80% of the responses said that their password problems were resolved within 24 hours. 38% said **Almost always**, and 42% said **Usually**. It is the other 20% that we need to improve upon.

[4th Question] *When you call the help line with a non-password issue that requires follow-up, are you contacted again within 24 hours?*

Only 45% of the responders indicated they were **Usually** contacted within 24 hours, where as 31% said they were only **Sometimes** contacted within 24 hours. The remaining 24% were divided between **Half the time** and **Almost always**. We are confident that this statistic will improve once the Technical Support Center is consolidated into the EPA Call Center (e.g., more specialists to handle more calls).

[5th Question] *For those calls that were not resolved during your initial call, were you given a tracking number (from the Remedy system) for future reference?*

On the downside, 30% said they had **Almost never** received a tracking number, and on the upside 31% said they had **Usually** or **Almost always** received a tracking number. This problem should be resolved now, and you are receiving a tracking number whenever your problem is not resolved on the initial call.

[6th Question] *When you call the help line during their normal operating hours, what portion of the time do you get voicemail rather than a person answering the phone?*

25% said **Almost never** get voicemail, 30% said **Sometimes**, and 27% said **Half the time**. 19% said they **Usually** get voicemail when they call the Helpline, and fortunately no one said they **Almost always** get voicemail rather than a person. We are confident that you will get a live person more often once the Technical Support Center is consolidated into the EPA Call Center (e.g., more specialists to handle more calls during peak times).

[7th Question] *Do you feel that the help line staff is knowledgeable enough about AQS to either assist you with your problem or quickly determine that the issue needs to be elevated?*

70% said they **Usually** or **Almost always** feel that the staff is either knowledgeable enough to resolve the problem or can quickly determine if the issue needs to be elevated.

[8th Question] *Overall, how would you rate the technical support you get from help line? The possible answers for this question were as follows: **Very poor**, **Poor**, **Fair**, **Good**, and **Very good**.*

15% rated the overall support as **Very good**. 45% as **Good**, 32% as **Fair**, and the remaining 8% rated support as either **Poor** or **Very poor**. We will continue working to improve User Support, and we are always open to your suggestions.

Thanks to those of you that took time at the conference to complete the questionnaire. It helps us to know your opinion of AQS Customer Support, and in turn, it helps us to know where we need to focus our attention to provide quality support.

Chuck Isbell



User Support Update

Transition of the TSC to the EPA Call Center

The EPA's NCC Technical Support Center (TSC), which provides AQS Level 1 user support, and is one of several Help Desks in the EPA, will be consolidated into the EPA Call Center. The EPA Call Center is located in Chantilly, VA (right outside Washington, D.C.). The consolidation or merger was scheduled for June 9, 2003, but has been delayed till June 23rd. We will keep you informed as information becomes available.

With the exception of a new phone number (1-866-411-4EPA), a new fax number (1-703-674-0118), and a new email address (EPACALLCENTER@epa.gov), the consolidation of the TSC into the EPA Call Center should be transparent to the AQS user community. In fact, two staff members, of the current TSC (Rosetta Jones and Troy Paylor), will remain in RTP, NC. When you call the new phone number (1-866-411-4EPA), it may be answered by staff in Chantilly, VA or by the staff here in RTP, NC. The good news is that the merger is expected to result in some improvements. For example, the EPA Call Center will be hiring four additional people to address the increased call volume, and the EPA Call Center currently provides the same priority to email and fax as they do to a phone call. This will enable you to report your AQS problem via email or fax, and expect the same level of response for either.

Please make a note of the new numbers below. After the transition, calls to the current numbers will automatically be forwarded to the EPA Call Center in Chantilly for 30 days. After the 30-day time frame, the TSC's current phone numbers will be disconnected and the new toll-free number must be used. The EPA Call Center has its own email address too. The TSC email address will remain valid for sometime into the future, but I recommend using the Call Center's email address rather than the old TSC one.

	Current Number (Technical Support Center)	New Number (EPA Call Center)
Toll-free number	(800) 334-2405	(866) 411-4EPA (4372)
TDD/TTY number	(919) 541-2586	(866) 489-4900
Local TSC number	(919) 541-7862	(866) 411-4EPA (4372)
Email Address	tsc.support.epa.gov	EPACALLCENTER@epa.gov
Fax Number		1-703-674-0118 (fax)

New Hours of Operation

The hours of operation for the EPA Call Center are 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET Monday thru Friday (closed on federal holidays). The Call Center, as stated earlier, will provide AQS Level 1 user support, and Rosetta Jones and Troy Paylor will remain in the RTP, NC. You will have the opportunity to meet some new Helpdesk specialist when you begin calling the Call Center. I have called up there a few times for help, and the specialists I talked to were both helpful and courteous.

As announced at the AQS Conference in Albuquerque (4/3/03), Level 2 support has been extended. The new hours of operation are now from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET (closed on federal holidays). In addition to the extended hours of support, an additional person was recently added to the Level 2 user support team. The Level 2 team now consists of Tom Lewis, Teresa Richards, Ed Pecham, Milton Kicklighter, and Donna Follman.

The hours of operation for the NCC Data Base Support Services (DBSS) group, which provides AQS Level 3 support, have not changed. Their hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET Monday thru Friday (closed on federal holidays). The Level 3 team consists of Teri Tapp and Marwan Samara.

We continue to work with the EPA Office of Environmental Information (OEI) and their contractors, which provide AQS user support, to improve user support. Progress has been made, but additional improvements are in the works (see my article on Transition of the TSC). Please contact me if you have any User Support issues you would like to discuss.

Chuck Isbell



AQS Web Rollout Plans in Place

The big news this year for AQS is that we'll be implementing a web-based version of the system. This means you will be able to run AQS through your web browser rather than having the client installed on your PC. Or, more precisely, your web browser will be the AQS client. The best news about this is that it will eliminate the need to use SecuRemote to access AQS. Also, you will not have to download any more new client versions or patches.

We will be phasing in AQS Web region by region to make sure that no major system response or security issues arise. By the end of June we plan to open it up to Region 3 users. In late July, we will add users from Regions 1, 2, and 9. And by the end of August, everyone will be able to access it.

When you are granted access, I will send you an e-mail outlining how to make the transition. After that, you will receive a physical letter with your access code to CDX. CDX is the EPA Central Data Exchange which we will use instead of FTP to upload and download files. Once you get this letter, you will be ready to set up and start using AQS Web.

The transition from the full-client AQS to AQS Web should be much easier than the transition from the mainframe to the current version. The forms (what you see on the screen) are practically identical, with only a few minor changes. Using CDX instead of FTP will be the biggest difference, and hopefully you will find it more convenient to use.

We will be offering hands-on AQS Web training at some regions. Because the "look and feel" is the same, and since many users were trained at the conference, we are gearing the training to people new to AQS. Thus we are focusing our training resources on the regions with the most new users.

We are not offering classroom training on how to transition from the current version to the new one. We have a guide that walks you through the changes and we will make this available to you when you get access.

The training agenda is the same we have been using for the last few years:



DAY 1

Morning System overview and explanation of data
Basic functions

Afternoon Loading data using transaction files:
The process
Transferring files
Site and monitor Data
Raw data

DAY 2

Morning Loading data using transaction files cont'd:
Dealing with data errors
Browsing the data using interactive screens

Afternoon Entering and editing data using interactive
screens
Standard (canned) reports
Course review

The training classes we have scheduled for the remainder of this fiscal year are as follows:

Region 2, NY City, Jul 24 -25
Region 3, Philadelphia, Jul 22-23
Region 6, Dallas or Austin, Sep 8-9
Region 7, Kansas City, Sep 11-12
Region 8, Denver, no dates picked yet.
Region 9, San Francisco, Aug 18 – 19
Region 9, Phoenix, Aug 21 – 22

If you want to attend one of these sessions and you have not already, please let the appropriate AQS regional contact know. If you want training and cannot attend one of these sessions or it is not offered in your region, we are continuing to work on a longer term plan. You may note that we are offering the training after each region gets access to the system so after the training, users can immediately return home and use AQS Web.

Thanks for your patience and cooperation in getting the new AQS Web implemented.

Nick Mangus

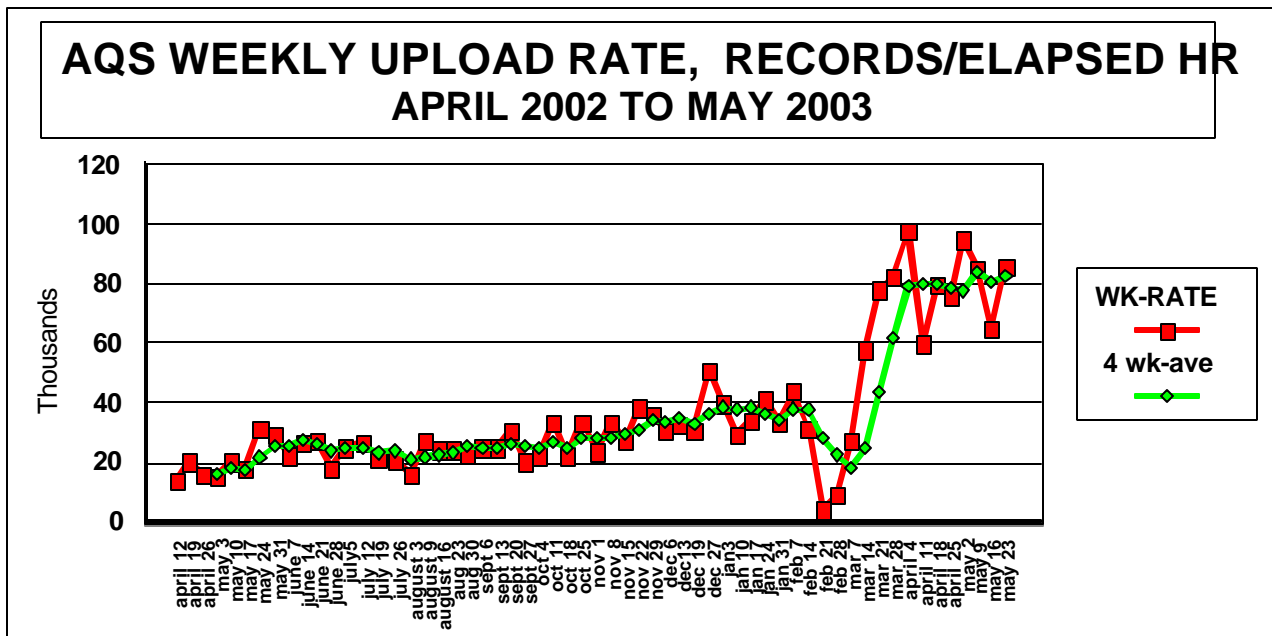


AQS Performance



We have been working for some time to improve AQS performance to make it operate more quickly and be more user-friendly. In March and April, 2003, we made a series of changes that resulted in a significant improvement in the upload rate.

The chart below presents the weekly upload rate from April 2002 to the present time. In early 2002, the average weekly load rate was about 20,000 records per hour (elapsed time). As a result of the changes made in March and April, the average weekly load rate increased to about 80,000 records an hour, or about four times faster than it was last year.



Some individual jobs run much faster than the average. For example, a few uploads have run over 200,000 records per hr. The 5 highest upload rates to date include:

Upload Rate	Name	Agency	Records loaded	Date and Start Time
244,395	Ruth Tatom	EPA, RO 6	14,007	May 21, @ 16:12
213,908	Lamonte Augustus	Jefferson Co., AL	8,723	April 11 @ 10:07
204,679	Paul Malone	Mojave Desert AQMD, CA	8,760	April 9 @ 18:19
200,510	Mary Walsh	Idaho	17,664	March 23
199,766	Ann Sorensen	Mass DEP	5,208	April 29 @ 13:15

On the other hand, some loads run in the 10,000-15,000 records per hr range. The lower rates are generally associated with uploads of multiple pollutant data for the same site (e.g., speciation and toxics data). We are continuing to investigate what we can do to improve the upload rates on these types of loads.

Ed Lillis





AQS Precision and Accuracy Transaction Generator (AQSP&A)

Update on current status

The new approach for creating precision and accuracy (P&A) batch transactions for loading into AQS is now “in production”. This new approach is called AQSP&A and is an Excel spreadsheet with some visual basic for applications procedures. AQSP&A is intended to meet the same needs as our older “PARS” software; namely to provide a stand-alone PC application to create AQS input format transactions for precision and accuracy data. AQSP&A is not “PARS”, however, and therefore has a different name.

It can be downloaded from the AQS website:
(<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/software/software.htm>). There are 10 files, one set up for each USEPA geographical region. You should download the file for the region in which your agency resides. There is also a “User Guide” file to download as well.

The application is now at version 2.1, reflecting some of the comments we heard at the AQS conference. In particular, the list of active criteria pollutant monitors included for each agency should be complete and sorted correctly in the lookup function, and the screening group names are now used, rather than the screening group numbers when setting up the application for one particular screening group.

Another request we heard at the AQS conference dealt with providing some reporting functionality in the application, beyond the routine printing capability of Excel. We hope to provide this in version 3.0 which is currently under development. We expect version 3.0 to be ready and posted in a couple of months (sometime during the summer). Please check the version number posted on the AQS website occasionally to see if you have the latest version.

We always want to know about problems you encounter in the application, or ways to improve the application. Please let us know about them (Bill Frietsche – (919) 541-5451; Michael Hamlin – (919) 541-5232). And we hope you have a nice summer.

Bill Frietsche





AQS Reports That Were Run in April

There were a total of 4120 AQS reports run in the month of April. The Raw Data report (AMP350) was run 964 times which represents the highest of all the reports that were run. This figure also represents 23% of all the reports that were run. The range of times to complete the runs of the Raw Data report was .08 minutes to 940 minutes. Fifty percent of all the Raw Data reports finished in less than 3 minutes while 90% finished in less than 35 minutes.

There were 31 different types of reports that were run in April. Of those 31, each type was run a minimum of 50 times. In order of longest to shortest, the following reports took the longest time to run: AMP501 (Extract raw data), AMP350D (Raw data daily), AMP350 (Raw data), AMP410 (Air quality index), and AMP410S (AQI summary). We are spending a lot of effort trying to reduce the time that the reports are running. The table below identifies the summary of reports run in April with times to complete.

Michael Hamlin

AQS REPORTS
Number of reports run in April with times to complete
(Ranked-ordered by most frequently used reports)

Report #	AQS report name	Number of reports run in April (% of total)	50% of reports finished in < X minutes (Elapsed time)	90% of reports finished in < X minutes (Elapsed time)	Ave. time in minutes (Elapsed time)	Range of time in minutes (Elapsed time)
AMP350	Raw data	964 (23.4)	2.8	35	9.7	.1 - 940
AMP450	Quick look criteria parameter	704 (17.1)	2	15	7	.1 - 153
AMP501	Extract raw data	556 (13.5)	3	63	36	.1 - 1430
AMP430	Data completeness	384 (9.3)	5	45	21	.1 - 482
AMP250	P/A Raw data	245 (5.9)	0.7	10.2	3.4	.1 - 67.3
AMP300	Violation day count	124 (3)	7	28.9	11.4	.2 - 71
AMP390	Monitor description	114 (2.8)	2.2	17.5	6.8	.1 - 167
AMP450NC	Quick look non criteria parameter	98 (2.4)	0.4	4	2.4	.1 - 36.7
AMP440	Max value report	89 (2.2)	2.5	12	6	.1 - 124
AMP435	Daily summary	88 (2.1)	1	4.7	3	.1 - 49
AMP380	Site description	82 (2)	1	17.5	7.3	.1 - 152
AMP350MX	Raw data max value	82 (2)	3.5	44	7.7	.1 - 103
AMP350H	Raw data hourly	70 (1.7)	5.8	45.6	12	.1 - 127
AMP246	Precision report	65 (1.6)	0.8	9	3.5	.1 - 58
AMP410S	AQI summary	60 (1.5)	26	281	83	1.1 - 571
AMP350NW	NAAQS average	55 (1.3)	1.7	19.8	25.5	.2 - 294
AMP410	Air quality index	49 (1.2)	40	98	79	2.5 - 800
AMP350D	Raw data daily	38 (.9)	1.2	32.5	40.5	.1 - 972
AMP260	Reduced frequency distribution	34 (.8)	1.8	15	3.94	.1 - 21.6
AMP500	Extract site monitor data	31 (.75)	1	16	6	.1 - 61
AMP247	Accuracy report	31 (.75)	0.6	9.6	3	.1 - 24.8
AMP502	Extract P/A data	30 (.73)	0.1	2.4	0.7	.1 - 5.7
AMP240	P/A reporting org. summary	30 (.73)	0.4	19	5.2	.1 - 53
AMP230	Frequency distribution	25 (.61)	3	11	4.7	.7 - 15
AMP220 D	Monitor network detail	19 (.46)	2.6	40	14.4	1.1 - 66
QLW450	QL workfile batch	17 (.41)	5	6	4.3	.5 - 6.3
AMP220_S	Monitor Network Summary	17 (.41)	2.5	25	13.4	.8 - 114
AMP350P	Raw data preproduction	6 (.15)	1.6	23.5	8.9	.6 - 25.3
AMP350M	Raw data monthly	6 (.15)	0.7	1.7	1.3	.3 - 3.8
AMP350DP	Raw data daily preproduction	5 (.12)	1.1	1.3	0.8	.2 - 1.3
AMP350HP	Raw data hourly preproduction	2 (.05)	0.5	1.1	0.8	.5 - 1.1
Total		4120 (100)	127.5	954	433	
Average		133	4.3	31	14	
Range		2 - 964	.1 - 40	1.1 - 98	.7 - 40.5	.1 - 1430

Detailed Data Files Available on the Web

Our approach for making hourly and daily data available to technical users of Air Quality data has evolved into what appears to be a popular option on our TTN web page for AQS. Consultants, regional organizations (e.g., LADCO) and others have been downloading nationwide data sets of ozone, PM_{2.5}, including speciation data at no charge. As a result, we have expanded the data available and plan to continue updates to this area.


Some users were initially concerned about the large file size of these data sets. In recent months, we have made the files smaller to allow for easier processing.

If you haven't visited it yet, check out http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/archived_data/downloadaqsdta.htm or click on the "Download Detailed AQS Data" from the sidebar of any page in the TTN AQS area. (See Figure below)

The most commonly requested data (PM 2.5, Ozone, and PAMS VOC) are posted there. The formats of the files are provided from links on the page. Data for 2002 was recently updated since the time for reporting 2002 data has passed.

We are interested in any feedback or suggestions for improving the usefulness of this function. Please send them to johnson.bonnie@epa.gov.

Bonnie Johnson



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Technology Transfer Network

Air Quality System

System Overview

Software

Manuals and Guides

Precision and Accuracy Reporting System (PARS)

Frequently Asked Questions

Memos

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AQS Conference

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Download Detailed AQS Data



The purpose of this web page is to assist those who want to obtain files of the very detailed ambient air quality data (e.g., hourly measurements) from AQS for analysis. The files available here are those containing data frequently requested.

NOTE: If you are interested in only summary information (e.g., daily or yearly means, or peak concentrations), it is available elsewhere. Summary data are accessible to the public from the [AirData](#) web area. Unless you are doing detailed analysis of the data, summary data will likely meet your needs.

Detailed data are categorized into 1) data from the **mainframe AQS** (generally older data) and 2) data from the **client/server AQS**. Please review the tables below to see if one or more of these data files meets your data needs. New files may be added from time to time and some files, especially for the more current years, may be updated from time to time. The date of retrieval for each file is noted in the table along with the file name and size.

Client/Server AQS: Files from the client/server version of AQS are usually in the same format as the ["input transaction format"](#)  for raw data, i.e., Transaction Type = RD. Separate files for various pollutants are available, e.g., one file contains PM Fine Speciation data for the nation for 2000. In some cases, one year of data for a pollutant is split into multiple files, e.g., 4 files are used to provide hourly Ozone data in 2002 for the nation.

Mainframe AQS: Files from the mainframe version of AQS follow a different format which is described in the ["raw data conversion card image"](#)  file.

A file containing records of [site information for the criteria pollutants](#)  (11101, 42101, 42401, 42602, 44201, 81102, 88101) during the period 1971 - 2000 is also available. This text file has been zipped. The unzipped file follows the format in [Site record description](#). [Mainframe version](#)  file.

Raw Data retrieved from the Client/Server AQS

Unless otherwise indicated, files unzip to text files in the [input transaction format](#) for raw data, i.e., Transaction Type = RD. All data reported for the US plus any data reported for Canada and Mexico is included unless otherwise indicated. (Canada is indicated by "CC" in the state code field; Mexico is "80".)

Pollutant (code) -Interval	Year(s)	File Name - Zipped Size (Unzipped Size)	Date Retrieved
PM 2.5 - Continuous (88101) - hourly ¹	2002	PM25_Continuous_2002.zip ¹ 7,824KB (106,141KB)	4/1/03
PM 2.5 - Continuous (88101) - hourly	2001	PM25_Continuous_2001.zip 6,248KB (92,908KB)	3/5/03
PM 2.5 - Local Conditions (88101) - daily ¹	2002	PM25_Daily2002.zip ¹ 10,231KB (930KB)	4/1/03
PM 2.5 - Local Conditions (88101) - daily ¹	2001	PM25_Daily2001.zip ¹ 10,268KB (939KB)	4/1/03
PM 2.5 - Local Conditions (88101) - daily ¹	2000	PM25_Daily2000.zip ¹ 9,449KB (862KB)	4/1/03
PM Fine Speciation Data - all states	2002	PMfineSpeciation2002.zip 5,526KB (72,084KB)	3/24/03



RANK	RECOMMENDATION	PLAN	TARGET DATE
1	Browsing / Maintenance - Would like to enter dates or specific info. Want ability to select/view data by date range and query by date and POC #.	The current raw data browse/maintain screen will be modified to allow selection by date range. The display will be modified to display more rows of raw data.	3 months
2	Quick look Report- Remove blank pages, and should give only the parameters requested.		Completed
3	- Have pop-up progress meter / bar / % complete indicator -	Oracle will determine the software design to perform the function and LMIT will implement the solution.	6-9 months
4	User Support a) Improvements in general at help desk - e.g., response time, refer to right person, question not answered; have a live person answering the phone; b) Publicize the hours and email address. c) Help desk needs to be open PST hours. -Suggestion = Have west coast help desk. d) Hotline should be more proactive to get info out quickly.	a) General improvement should be realized once the TSC is transitioned to the EPA Call Center (scheduled 6/23/03). More staff will be available. New Call Center staff will need training on AQS and to whom to transfer calls to (level 2 or 3). b) Help desk operational hours will be posted on the AQS TTN. c) Level 1 & 2 now works until 6:30 pm ET (3:30pm PST). d) TSC is working to get info out more quickly.	a) 3 months b) Done c) Done d) Ongoing
5	Communications- Establish bulletin board for all problems reported to Helpdesk. Post questions and answers - Need user support network - establish new or revive former list server.	a) A group has been established via MSN named "AQSGroup" as a user support network. MSN provides this service free. IMG will control access to the group by keeping it a private group (i.e., you must be invited to join.) Set up instructions will be forwarded to all registered AQS users. Group members may post messages at any time and messages are not previewed by IMG before posting. Successful use of this service depends on the users. b) We will continue to update the FAQ area on the TTN. We may be able to pull more topics for FAQ from Remedy, but the difficulty is in getting to the detailed information in Remedy and re-writing it so that it is understandable to general users.	a) done b) ongoing

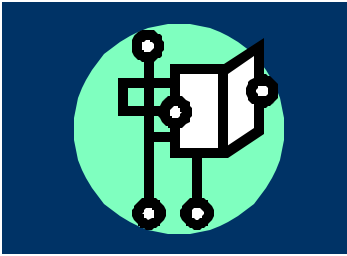
RANK	RECOMMENDATION	PLAN	TARGET DATE
6	Documentation- Coding manual needs clarification (e.g. include examples especially Locational, lat/long). Standardized form.	Enhance Data Coding Manual to provide better info on Locational type data. Provide examples. - Look into how other EPA applications are providing end-user documentation for this LDP info. - Research guidance from other sources (such as OEI standards folks, etc.)	5 months
7	Error Messages Clarify error messages, especially numerically coded errors. (e.g. site shutdown - clarify monitor ID not in database error). Better explanation of Oracle error messages	Users need to notify us on specific unclear messages they would like clarified	ongoing
8	Reports - Ability to change sort data order.	The screens to create reports will be redesigned to include this function.	3 months
9	Documentation - 1) Data dictionary should (a) spell out acronyms. and (b) include list of acronyms and (c) definitions needed for required fields. 2) Document and define all algorithms in a separate document or index to the Data Dictionary & Coding Manual.	1a) Spell out acronyms within text. 1b) Add list of acronyms as an appendix. 1c) getting more info on need. 2) Obtain the algorithms from either the (a) case tool, (b) old data dictionary, (c) Federal Register, or (d) EMAD.	1a) 3 months 1b) 3 months 1c) under review 2) 6 months
10	New Feature AQS needs a cancel report / cancel session should immediately cancel.	Oracle will determine the software design to perform the function and LMIT will implement the solution.	6-9 months



11	Training- Training needs to include supporting documents or references - should all be in one place, e.g., on a web site	Agree	3 months
12	Training- Training in states to increase # of knowledgeable users in use of AQS Train on data requirements; i.e. POC #s, Site moves, data form(PN); Also, what are data used for - particularly if public will have access.(L)	Can't afford to go to each State to train but will go to where RO want s to hold training in their RO.	
13	Reports- Raw data report that shows monitor, pollutant, date.	Report is similar to the speciation report and might be developed as part of it.	6 months
14	New Features- Gray out unavailable options (e.g. query). Button selected should gray out or change color while system is working - hourglass symbol, message bar.	Oracle will investigate to see if feasible.	6 months
15	Documentation- - Need guidance for reference tables geocommon data. (In general, need better guidance for fields with complex functionality. Need field edits added to Coding Manual.)	Enhance Data Coding Manual a) To provide better guidance for fields with complex functionality. b) Add field edits	a) Ongoing (new version before next conference) b) 6 months
16	Reports- Separate column for null codes and flags in raw data reports.		Completed
17	Documentation- Need to define description - on line documentation for method, null data qualifiers. (Do this as part of upgrading AQSQuery to provide interactive lookup of all AQS codes on a public website.)	Enhance AQSQuery to provide public access to all AQS reference codes and online help for how to choose which reference code (such as Method) is applicable.	6 months
18	Reports- Add parameter code and name to all reports.	This will be done as reports are optimized and converted to text format.	ongoing over next 6-12 months
19	Reports - Paging down in a query is slow.	This function will be evaluated after the conversion to the web. .	
20	New Feature - Site history viewer (see what parameters are connected to a site, with dates of site operation, etc.)	See Reports discussion below	
21	Correct - Be able to pull a batch file of data in "Correct".	This function may be possible at a later date.	6-9 months

22	Reports - Be able to save queries and standard criteria cross report.	The screens to create reports will be redesigned to include this function.	3 months
23	Reports - Data Completeness report not working well. - Add seasonal indicator to monitor to correctly calculate data completeness.		Completed in V2.6.
24	P and A data - P&A Monitor/Site data loads without giving users a chance to see it. Need PARS output report so results can be reviewed before loading to AQS.	Likely will not do this in short-term. It is a major change. Prefer to address other issues first.	
25	New Feature - A. Current status of database should be on login page. B. Send out an email as soon as the system goes down.	A. A web page may be designed to easily include this information before accessing the database. B. Emails are currently sent out when system is down.	A. 6 months B. Ongoing
26	Training- Need for information and guidance on what data should go into AQS - Basic training issues.	Agree	6 months
27	Duplicate Monitor Function - Duplicate Monitor function should only copy skeletal/correct information since details on what fields/info need to be changed for the new site.		9-12 months
28	Reports - Some reports (e.g., Quick look for non-criteria) need to show higher level of precision to display data-- user should choose # of decimal places.	Report optimization will include this review. Users will not have option to specify number of decimals.	6 months
29	Monthly data matrix viewer.	See Reports discussion below	
30	Discoverer- Raw data accessible thru Discoverer.	Looking into this but probably not before new web version of Discoverer is available	6-12 months – depending on web version





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In addition, users also recommended that we
Develop a number of new reports. These included:

Design Value Report
Exceptional Event Report
Network Review Report
Data Histogram Report
Quarterly Report
Speciation Report
Toxics Data Report
Data Inventory Report
Monitor Precision and Accuracy Summary Report

At this time, we plan to develop
the speciation report, the toxic
report and the quarterly report
over the next 6-9 months. We
will reassess the other reports
once these have been completed.
We also plan to continue to
modify the existing AQS reports
so that they are available in text
formats (AMP250, the AMP
440, and the AMP 450NC) and,
in some cases, work files
including the AMP 440 and
either the AMP 230 or 260).

Ed Lillis

AQS Current Stats as of 6/17/03

Region 1 = 52 Users

Region 2 = 23 Users

Region 3 = 32 Users

Region 4 = 68 Users

Region 5 = 48 Users

Region 6 = 40 Users

Region 7 = 32 Users

Region 8 = 35 Users

Region 9 = 98 Users

Region 10 = 19 Users

Other = 97 Users

TOTAL = 544



Discussion with AQS Regional Contacts



AQS Training Session

