

AQS Notes for October 19, 2012
Regular software deployment & General info

Topics:

Security Changes

Online Updates of Raw Data

Standard Reports – update on 355/Combined Site Sample Values

Recent request to update Site and Monitor metadata & Primary Monitor Period error for NO₂

AQI breakpoints for SO₂

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1. Security Changes

Recently, state and local AQS users requested the ability to modify PM2.5 speciation data that is analyzed and reported by RTI, primarily to add QA qualifiers during data review. To fulfill this request, we have made changes in which users are authorized to update data.

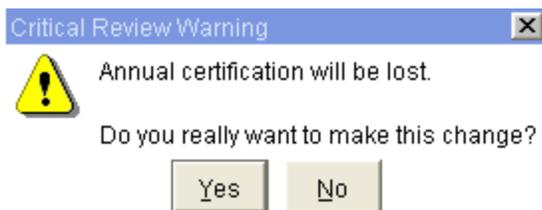
Who is authorized to update raw data for a monitor?

- a. As always, users who have access to the screening group that owns that monitor.
- b. In addition, users who are in the PQAQO ("primary quality assurance organization") to which that monitor is assigned. *Note: As of January 1, 2007, all monitors must have an Agency Role for "PQAQO."*

2. AQS now allows raw data to be entered online using the Maintain form.

Here's what you can do from the Maintain → Sample Values → Raw Data form:

- a. Insert new data. When you "Save" the data will go to production ("P") status.
- b. Update existing data, i.e., change the reported sample value, add a qualifier code. When you "Save" the data will go to production ("P") status.
- c. Changing a certified sample value – when you "Save" you will see this warning:



Note: If you change an existing sample value and that data is certified, then "Save" will post the data and the monitor-year will lose its annual certification flag.

3. 355/Combined Site Sample Values Report is not available.

We are working with Oracle Corp. to find a solution. In the meantime, a **Discoverer query** has been shared with all users. The query mimics the 355 and will create site-level monthly averages for the combinable pollutants. In Discoverer, open Workbook "Site_Monthly_Statistics (Means, Maxes and #Obs) by Parameter for each Site and Year."

Note: You will choose the desired state(s), parameter(s) and year(s). This query will return only regulatory values, that is data points with EDT_ID 0 (no EE flagged data) and 5 (Regionally concurred EE data.) You can always save a copy of the query and modify it for your needs.

4. Error in saving Site and Monitor metadata updates due to missing Primary Monitor Period for NO₂.

The EPA OAQPS Monitoring group and Regional Offices have contacted state, local and other agencies in an effort to improve AQS metadata, and we appreciate your efforts. Several people have contacted us after making changes and not being able to “Save” those changes. The error message is “Each day in a sample period for a combinable monitor must be assigned to a primary monitor period.” If you received this error message, then your NO₂ monitor needed a Primary Monitor Period.

To eliminate this error message in the future, we have run a script to add a PMP to all NO₂ monitors.

Note: All combinable pollutants (those that are combined at a site level) need a Primary Monitor Period. Primary Monitor Period begin and end dates can be entered via the Primary Monitor Period tab (at the site level in AQS, Maintain --> Site) and must correspond to the Sample Period dates.

Note: The combinable pollutants are: 12128 lead (TSP) STP, 14129 lead (TSP) LC, 42602 NO₂, 85129 lead PM10 LC FRM/FEM, and 88101 PM2.5 LC.

5. AQI for SO₂

For each pollutant, the AQI transforms ambient concentrations to a scale from 0 to 500. In 2010, AQI breakpoints for SO₂ were revised. “Hourly SO₂ values do not define higher AQI values (≥200). AQI values of 200 or greater are calculated with 24-hour SO₂ concentrations.” See 40 CFR Part 58 Appendix G (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-06-22/pdf/2010-13947.pdf>)

Since AQS generates AQI values, it has been updated to reflect the SO₂ revisions. For AQI range from 0-200 (including “Good,” “Moderate,” “Unhealthy for sensitive groups” or “Unhealthy”) then AQS uses SO₂ hourly values from 0 to 0.304 ppm. For AQI of 201-300 or “Very unhealthy” then AQS uses SO₂ daily average (24-hour) values from 0.305-0.604 ppm.

6. Stat/CR process

At least one user reported loading a file that caused the Stat/CR process to fail repeatedly. The file was attempting to insert duplicate records. Stat/CR has been fixed; it will not fail, but will give an error message of “Cannot enter duplicate records.”

7. Exchange Network User ID

What to do if your email address changes?

Existing AQS users – In most cases, your EN user ID is the email address on file on your Security Profile in AQS. If your email address does change, you do not need to request a new EN account. Please contact the CDX Helpline at 888-890-1995 and choose option 2 for Node support. CDX staff will change your EN user ID to reflect your new email address. Please remember to update your Security Profile in AQS.

8. 2012 AQS conference “Ask the AQS Team” Q&A’s are available.

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/conference/Ask%20the%20AQS%20Team.pdf>