Chuck Isbell/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA

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To: Chuck Isbell/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA
cc: John McQuaid/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Ernie Watson/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Dolores Clark/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, David Updike/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Teri Tapp/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Marwan Samara/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Tom Lewis/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Teresa Richards/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Donna Follmann/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Milton Kicklighter/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Rosetta Jones/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Troy Paylor/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Cynthia Scearce/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Jainaba Jeng/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Steve Maunder/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Elizabeth Cheek/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Pozun.Lori@EPA.GOV, Ed Lillis/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Jake Summers/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: User-Ids Being Revoked after One Year of NOT Logging into AQS by the National Computer Center (NCC)

To: AQS Users

The new AQS has been in production just over a year. Recently, some users have reported their User-Id being revoked, and their Canyon and Volcano accounts permanently locked by the NCC. This has been found to be a result of these users not logging into AQS for a year or not accessing your Volcano (ftp) or Canyon (batch jobs) accounts.

The EPA National Computer Center (NCC) security policy mandates that the User-Id be revoked on the 366th day of not logging into either Canyon or Volcano. When this occurs, the User-Id is revoked for one month. During this time the user cannot access the AQS data base for uploads or retrievals. The NCC mandates the one-month lockout to give account administrators time for disposition of user files. Only after this one-month period can the User-Id be reactivated; or in some cases, a new User-Id assigned.

To avoid one's User-Id being revoked, users must log onto Canyon and Volcano before the 366th day. The simplest way to achieve this is to log into AQS and synchronize both the Canyon and Volcano passwords (the synchronization software actually logs onto both servers). Please note that the EPA NCC security policy also mandates that user passwords be reset every 90 days. To avoid your passwords being locked (disabled) after 90 days, users should log into AQS and synchronize their passwords before the end of the 90-day period. Our strong recommendation for all AQS users, who want to retain an active status, is to log into AQS and synchronize their passwords every 90 days. This action will keep your User-Id and passwords alive and well.

Some users, primarily EPA, only access the AQS database via SAS software. Since SAS accesses the AQS Oracle database directly (not thru the AQS client), their Canyon and Volcano Unix passwords are subject to being revoked if either of these Unix servers has not been accessed for a period of one year. It is recommended that SAS users, who only use SAS and do not use the AQS client, be removed from their Canyon and Volcano accounts. This will help prevent account administrators having

to deal with revoked User-Ids and permanently locked accounts for those users that only use SAS. Again, if SAS users also use the AQS client, then they need to keep their User-Ids and passwords active by logging into AQS and synchronizing their passwords every 90 days.

We are currently working with the NCC and have requested that they notify users (and us) at least one month in advance of any AQS User-Id being revoked and their Canyon and Volcano accounts permanently locked by the NCC. We feel that this early notification will provide users the necessary time to log into AQS and synchronize their passwords prior to their User-Id being revoked and their accounts being permanently locked. Again, once the user ID has been revoked and their accounts locked, the user must wait a month before a new User-Id can be established and their accounts unlocked.

For those users who do get permanently locked or deleted from their accounts, if they need to remain an AQS user they will need to contact their regional AQS person to re-register for AQS. The regional AQS contact person will have to add the user to the appropriate accounts and contact IMG for the user to be put in AQS again. Should the user no longer need access, your regional AQS contact and IMG needs to be notified.

Please forward this email to any users in your agency that are not active AQS users and may not have accessed AQS within the past 11 months. Your cooperation and support in this matter are greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.