AQS March 2014 Webinar Questions and Answers

1. CSN Speciation Verifications and Audits: Aren't these completed and uploaded to the RTI website via an excel spreadsheet?
   a. These will be loaded by the EPA into AQS.
2. Annual PE Assessments: For audit levels is the standard concentration or the monitor concentration (it is possible to run a level 2 gas and get a level 1 result)?
   a. The user's assigned level is determined from the position that the user places the pair on the transaction. This is stored as metadata. However, the level that is used by the Data Quality Indicator report is determined by the "Assessment Concentration".
3. When will we have to use these in lieu of the RP and RA files?
   a. The RA and RP transactions will be accepted through March 2015.
4. Annual PE Assessments: Which value is used to determine the level of an assessment pair. Example - photometer sends 40 ppb, analyzer reads 39 the standard is in one level, the analyzer is in another.
   a. The "Assessment Value" alone determines the assessment level.
5. For the PMc, we report 86101 and 86502. All our results verifications and audits are already in AQS for the respective PM10 and PM2.5 monitors. Are we supposed to enter the exact same data for PMc also? That seems redundant and extra work for just a calclated value of PM10 - PM2.5.
   a. Presently, AQS does not calculate PMc values from the PM 10 LC and PM 2.5 values. (However, I agree that it does make sense and would significantly reduce the confusion.)
6. QA Transaction Generator: This looks like a one-by-one process on the generator. With the previous R&P Excel spreadsheet, I could copy/paste the entire data set from the previous month, then copy paste from a different source to update. Finally make the string. I could do 50 monitors in less than 5 min. This seems extensive and error prone. What is the source of the data that stores it and is it editable?
   a. Although cut-and-paste is not supported, the equivalent operation is "Import", which will read a flat file, which can then be edited and validated inside the transaction generator. You can use external tools to generate the external file (possibly by merging other files).
7. Transaction Generator: Is there a requirement to use the transaction generator to create QA files for submission to AQS?
   a. No. It is intended solely as a convenience for manual creation of QA records. If you have other tools, especially automated tools such as a data management system, you are welcome to use them instead.
8. Can we still submit AMP255 report for 2013 Data Certification?
   a. No, the process for 2013 is to submit the AMP600 report.
9. We send Region 10 a copy of the Precision, Accuracy and Completeness reports quarterly; shall we switch to the AMP251 instead?
   a. Yes.
10. I just ran an AMP 256 report to see if one of my collocated monitors would show up (it doesn't in the 255). The report failed to run. Same for AMP251, AMP504.
    a. This problem has been fixed.
11. Is there a document outlining the "changes" to QA transactions format? For example, adding "assessment number" to each transaction to submit to AQS.
    a. All of the fields on each transaction are described in the document at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/manuals/QA_Transaction_Formats.pdf and in the AQS Data Coding manual.
12. NAATS Program: I just tried to do this myself on the dup/rep dataset but the results came back empty in the text file. Have these been converted yet? It looks like it ran properly. (Its possible the error is on my end, since I just did this on the fly).
    a. NAATS Duplicate and Replicate data has not been converted yet.

13. Pb (Lead) Analysis Audits: Are the labs assigned official lab IDs?   Is this a required field for QA transaction?
    a. Yes, all analysis labs should have an assigned agency code.   It is a required field for Lead Analysis Audits.
14. Pb (Lead) Analysis Audits: Could you please explain how and where to input lead strip analysis results? Till now, I was told to attach it to one of the lead monitor site and enter as accuracy audit.
    a. With the new QA transactions, the results should be reported on the "Pb Analysis Audit" transaction.   It is reported for your PQAO and the Lab's agency code.
15. Collocated Precision: Will AQS continue to calculate precision data for co-located monitors when submitted as RD?
    a. Yes, in fact this will be the only way that collocated assessments will be accepted after 2014.
16. Agency Based Access Control: Do the changes to access make it easy for one hand to change data without the others knowing?
    a. Yes, but the improved efficiency from more robust access control is expected to significantly offset any cost from allowing multiple agency access.
17. Report Output Formats: I see an option to download text files rather than PDFs on the new reports.   What is the timeline on those being functional?   Currently the AQS poll fails if the text option is selected.
    a. Text formatted reports (as distinct from workfiles) are no longer supported, and have been disabled.
18. AMP 251 does not list any generated raw precision data. What is the page titled "Raw Agency Duplication Report" supposed to contain? BTW, there are some pages in the header that say ".... Test Test".
    a. An old version of the report had been deployed.   The correct version, that includes "generated" collocation data, will be deployed immediately.
19. Correction Forms: In the correct form, can you still directly enter the new transactions and use that to load?
    a. Yes.   If you enter the data without retrieving the records for a file, it will build a file name like "ONLINE*".   If you enter records after retrieving the records for a file, they will be stored in that file.
20. Maintain Forms: When using the maintain form for on-line edits, do you just make the change and save?
    a. Yes.
21. Required Collection Frequency for Monitor: Reporting is categorized by required frequency. Does this mean EPA required or District required?
    a. This is the collection frequency required for PM pollutants as per 40 CFR Part 58.12 Operating Schedules.
22. Required Collection Frequency for Monitor: How does this work in relation to gaseous testing with respect to 25% and 1/year?
    a. It does not.   Require collection frequency only applies to manual PM monitors.
23. How often are various assessments required?
    a. This is specified in 40 CFR Part 58 Appendix A.3.
24. In the old AQSP&A we had to put PM2.5 course twice from each sampler.   Once from the PM2.5 course and once from the PM10 course.   How is that changed in your new database?
    a. Yes, there are now PMc flow assessments that allow you to submit one transaction for both PM 10 and PM 2.5 for the required 86101 flow assessments.
25. Will access - permissions need to change or be granted to use the new QA transactions system? I currently have read only.
    a. Yes.   You will still need to be assigned update access rights.
26. Is there a guidance document that describes how to clean up the staging tables?
    a. Not presently, but we will add this to the User's Guide.
27. What about the STN (Speciation) flow checks and audits? Will this new QA transaction allow for submittal?
    a. Yes, there are new transactions for this purpose, to allow one flow assessment to be performed for a sampler, and AQS will automatically propagate it to all related monitors.

28. I downloaded the AQS QA Transaction Generator and got an error on the installation. The error was regarding missing files. What should I do now?
    a. The problem was caused by executing the setup file without first extracting the files from the zip archive.
29. Does the XML schema will allow us to create the reports for the May 1 deadline?
    a. XML is not needed to create the reports.   The schema is available for download now from the exchange network at: http://www.exchangenetwork.net/data-exchange/aqs/. AQS should be able to load XML files in the new schema by early summer.