

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## Digital Government Strategy Milestones

### Status Update

#### Office of Information Collection

February 2015

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Digital Government Strategy included milestones in the out-years to ensure agencies commit to publishing information and establishing processes that promote data publication. This status update describes EPA's approach to address three out-year OMB deliverables:

- Task 1.2: Ensure all new information technology (IT) systems follow the open data, content and Web application program interface (API) policy and operationalize agency.gov/developer pages.
- Task 2.2: Apply metadata tagging and publish a plan to transition additional high-value systems.
- Task 7.2: Publish a plan for optimizing services for mobile use and publish a plan for improving additional existing services.

Each of the three tasks are emphasized in the requirements for implementing Executive Order 13642, "[Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information](#)," and accompanying [Open Data Policy](#), M-13-13. EPA is implementing several information management practices to ensure integration of the Digital Government Strategy principles and the Open Data Policy into EPA business processes. These information management practices are reflected in EPA's Enterprise Information Management Policy (EIMP) and associated implementation procedures (February 2015).

Adoption of the EIMP and associated procedures and standards reflect a significant Agencywide effort. They collectively establish a framework to require data owners to register their information assets and promote publication through actions such as requiring information to be managed throughout its lifecycle; addressing stakeholder requirements; fostering the availability of information and establishing "minimum metadata standards" for all information types.

The Agency is publishing its information through several registries. The [Environmental Dataset Gateway](#) (EDG)<sup>1</sup> is a metadata catalog that was initially limited to geographic data, but was expanded in 2011 to accommodate metadata for non-geospatial datasets as well. In order to meet Digital Government Strategy, E.O. 13642 and Open Data Policy requirements, EPA has adopted Project Open Data (POD) Metadata Schema v1.1. This new schema enhances the description of datasets registered in the EDG and Data.gov.

In addition, the Agency's response to the Open Data Policy will include a process for evaluating information assets that promote publication of frequently requested datasets that have high value to stakeholders in the most useful formats such as APIs. This process includes a customer engagement platform, use of Agency Web-metrics and input from other forums such as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and hackathons. This feedback from stakeholders will be considered when determining how to increase public access and expanded use for uncontrolled data. EPA is also in the process of conducting a review of its regulatory programs to identify efficiencies through increased use of electronic services.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Environmental Dataset Gateway, please visit: <https://edg.epa.gov>

## Crosswalk of OMB Requirements and Agency's Actions:

**Milestone 1.2:** *Ensure all new IT systems follow the open data, content and Web API policy and operationalize agency.gov/developer pages.*

- Agency services offered through <epa.gov/developer> have been optimized for public consumption and reuse.
- Compliance with E.O. 13642 and associated Web API policy will be addressed during implementation of the EPA's Enterprise Information Management Policy via associated procedures and standard operating procedures that will include the construction of data services (e.g., API's) consistent with the Web API Policy.

**Milestone 2.2:** *Apply metadata tagging and publish a plan to transition additional high-value systems.*

- Enhanced public access of high value data will be promoted through the evaluation process and reflected in the quarterly update of EPA's EDG.
- Milestone 2.2 is also supported by implementation of EPA's EIMP, whose requirements and procedures will include:
  - Registration of data assets and required use of well-defined data descriptions through extensible metadata that include a field for APIs;
  - Following a data release process that includes a determination of whether any legislation, regulations, or government-wide orders prevent public release activities.
- A sample of Web services released since the November 2013 status update are appended below.

**Milestone 7.2:** *Publish a plan for improving additional existing services.*

- EPA's process for prioritizing the improvement of existing services for public access and use is described further in EPA's updated Open Data Policy Implementation Plan (February 2015). It includes:
  - A Customer Engagement platform;
  - Use of Web metrics to determine what data are of most interest to the public;
  - An analysis of FOIA requests.
- Promoting publication of existing data assets will also be addressed during implementation of EPA's EIMP through procedures and guidance that include:
  - Data asset registration;
  - Use of extensible metadata;
  - Release of data via a process that includes a determination of whether any legislation, regulations or government-wide orders prevent public release activities.

## Sample Data Services Published After Initial Digital Government Strategy Report (2013-15)

Resource / Hyperlink	Release Date	Resource Output Format	Public / Intranet	Description
<a href="#">FRS Subfacility Map Service</a>	15-Oct-13	REST ArcGIS Map Service	Public	Subfacility data, including air stacks from AIRS/AFS (release locations of regulated pollutants into the air) and outfall locations (or discharge points) from NPDES. As more reliable data become available, other program systems subfacility data will be integrated.
<a href="#">FRS Power Plants Service</a>	15-Oct-14	REST ArcGIS Map Service	Public	US Power Generation Facilities, compiled from most-current (as of June 2014) Energy Information Administration EIA-860 power plant data, together with USEPA Facility Registry Service data.
<a href="#">FRS Wastewater Treatment Plants Service</a>	15-Oct-14	REST ArcGIS Map Service	Public	This dataset combines facility data from US EPA's Facility Registry Service (FRS) and Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) for wastewater treatment plants. This dataset combines FRS facility data and derived attributes with ICIS wastewater treatment data, and has been presented with three different view options at the facility level: 1. display of Publicly Owned Treatment Works and Federal facilities, 2. Display of all facilities, categorized as Major, Minor and Other/Nonclassified, and 3. Display of facilities with Combined Sewer Outfalls.
<a href="#">FRS ESF-10 Service</a>	15-Aug-13	REST ArcGIS Map Service	Intranet	Emergency Response Map Service (Oil/Hazmat) - active facilities from RMP, Oil (FRP only), TRI, and RCRAInfo (TSD only).
<a href="#">FRS ESF-3 Service</a>	15-Aug-13	REST ArcGIS Map Service	Intranet	Emergency Response Map Service (Public Works) - active waste water treatment plants from NPDES and non-transient drinking water facilities from SDWIS
<a href="#">FRS Facility Lookup REST Service</a>	1-Jul-13	REST – JSON, XML	Public	REST service to query for FRS facility data by geography, radial search, name, identifier and other parameters
<a href="#">Envirofacts FRS REST Service</a>	1-Jul-13	REST – JSON, XML, CSV, Excel formats	Public	REST service to access FRS database tables from the FRS data model
<a href="#">Envirofacts REST Services</a>		REST – JSON, XML, CVS, Excel formats	Public	Envirofacts has developed a RESTful data service API to all of its internal data holdings. This functionality provides a user of Envirofacts with the ability to query any table through the use of a URL. The entire set of Envirofacts database metadata is available online, so that all tables and columns within Envirofacts are documented. Having the table structures available in this manner makes most of Envirofacts data easily available through the service.