

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## RCRA Showcase Pilot

### Cross-Divisional, Multi-Regional & Multi Media Electronic Data Deliverable

A cross-divisional and multi-regional effort is well under way to develop one standard Electronic Data Deliverable (EDD). The team working on this effort includes staff from the RCRA, Superfund, and Water programs from EPA Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 (note that not all programs in each region are involved).

The EDD will establish a standard electronic format for the submittal of data from samples collected in a variety of environmental media, including groundwater, surface water, soils and sediment.

Tremendous amounts of data are collected at Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Underground Storage Tank (UST), Underground Injection Control (UIC) and special project sites. Presently, the bulk of this data is received and evaluated by the states and regions in paper reports.

The pilot will speed the achievement of the Environmental Indicators, Current Human Exposures Under Control and Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control, by allowing faster and more focused reviews by project managers. EPA's receipt of the sampling and analytical data in a timely manner and in the proper format enables the project manager to quickly and easily review data concurrently with the facility or to verify conclusions and recommendations made by RCRA facilities and Superfund responsible party lead sites.

As part of the effort, the EDD will be developed to work with EPA Region 8's STORET Interface Module (SIM2). This will expand Region 8's effort, which is currently limited to the Superfund program, to include all data elements for both the RCRA and Superfund programs. It is anticipated that the expanded EDD will be written as an XML transaction set and will be implemented as a web-based application for updating chemical and physical parameter data in STORET, including any associated data quality assurance (QA/QC) information.

#### **The benefits of this project are:**

- Improved access to information for enhanced and more realistic decision-making ability, and minimized data review time, all of which promotes data-driven discussions and enables the EPA, facilities and consultants to carry out the same data analysis
- Facilitation of data sharing amongst regulatory agencies
- Reduced time to evaluate site conditions
- Support of GPRA Environmental Indicator Determinations
- Reduces reporting burden on the regulated community by having electronic reporting (GPEA - Government Paperwork Elimination Act)
- Enhanced ability to address cumulative effects from different sites and programs

- Use of a multi-media approach to environmental protection
- Will facilitate assessment of contamination from a regional and national perspective
- Improved direct public access to environmental information
- Improved Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and congressional response time
- Support of special initiatives and goals, such as GPRA, Watershed protection, Brownfields, Environmental Justice and OSWER/Region 2 QEIC EMPACT Project
- Facilitation of input into STORET, a potential national data repository
- Reduced transition time when site managers change
- Improved regional and national consistency of data analysis

### **Pilot Participants**

The pilot participants include various states and regions that will be requesting that the regulated community provide data in the EDD format. Ultimately, the public will be a participant when technically valid and defensible data submitted in the EDD format is made available via web sites. Additional participants will include the many current users of electronic data, such as EPA and state project managers, laboratories, risk assessors, contractors and consultants, public health agencies, environmental and community groups, and EPA Headquarters, regional and state managers.

This innovative process can be applied to any site and under any program where sampling and analytical data are collected.

### **Project Milestones**

The US DOT VOLPE Center and their subcontractor, Battelle, have been providing support to Region 5 in the development of their EDD. Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 have been working together to develop a standard for electronic data submissions. The Office of Water has supported using SIM2 as the interface into STORET. The EDD is expected to be available by the end of calendar year 2001.

### **Pilot Progress Measurement and Reporting**

Progress of this pilot will be measured starting with completion and distribution of the EDD to the regulated community. Progress can be measured with each data submittal using the EDD format. Some EPA regions are requiring use of an EDD for Superfund lead sites in their contracts. Some regions will be requiring it as part of an order, permit or voluntary agreement. Compliance with such a requirement can also be used as a measure of success. Both success stories and problems that are encountered with electronic data transfer using the EDD format will be documented. The frequency, quantity and type of necessary modifications to the EDD can also be used as a measure of progress and success.

Oversight of this pilot will be conducted individually by each region and state that will be adopting the EDD. Each EPA Regional lead will be responsible for gathering and compiling the necessary and relevant information from the states in their region for tracking and reporting progress of this pilot.

## Key Regional/State contacts responsible for managing the pilot project

### Region 1

Carolyn Casey

EPA RCRA Facility Manager

[casey.carolyn@epa.gov](mailto:casey.carolyn@epa.gov)

### Region 2

Richard Krauser

EPA RCRA Project Manager

[krauser.richard@epa.gov](mailto:krauser.richard@epa.gov)

### Region 3

Matt Mellon

Superfund RPM

[mellon.matt@epa.gov](mailto:mellon.matt@epa.gov)

### Region 4

Dave Jenkins

Office of Technical Assistance

[jenkins.dave@epa.gov](mailto:jenkins.dave@epa.gov)

### Region 5

Dave Wilson

Superfund RPM

[wilson.david@epa.gov](mailto:wilson.david@epa.gov)

### Region 8

Martin McComb

OWOW

[mccomb.martin@epa.gov](mailto:mccomb.martin@epa.gov)

### Izak Maitin

NJDEP - Site Remediation

[imaitin@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:imaitin@dep.state.nj.us)