

and integrate data from EPA and partner information systems for multiple purposes;

- Use the Exchange Network to provide access to data that are not currently available for environmental and human health protection purposes; and/or

- Enhance the value of the Exchange Network by developing tools/applications that use data that are made available through Web services.

Please note that not all of the activities listed above may be appropriate for particular data flows at this time. In addition, applicants may propose other types of data flow activities that have not been mentioned here. All proposals—whether they relate to these specific data flows or the suggested activities—will receive careful consideration by EPA.

Air Quality System (AQS)

System Description

AQS is a national database that contains ambient air quality monitoring data collected by State, Tribal, and local governments. This information is used to determine compliance with clean air standards, assess the nature of air pollution problems in North America, and assess the exposure of humans to toxic and other airborne pollutants.

Status and Plans

- *Flat File:* The transfer of AQS flat files via CDX began in July 2003.
- *XML Schema:* The XML schema for AQS will be available by mid-2004 for voluntary use by agencies. Subsequent to schema development, EPA will develop the capability to receive and process AQS XML data.
- *Other Activities:* In late 2004, EPA expects to deploy Web services that support limited real-time stakeholder queries of selected AQS data.

Suggested Activities for Exchange Network Partners

- Conduct pilot projects to test/use the AQS XML input schema, particularly for submitting data to AQS through CDX and for performing local quality assurance checks (e.g., for format, range, and file structure). EPA is particularly interested in the development of XML error/diagnostic message schema that could accompany the XML input transaction schema. EPA is also interested in the development of XML output schema that describe standard reports and workfiles, based on the final AQS XML input schema.
- Work with EPA to develop Web services and applications that use AQS XML schema to enhance the timeliness,

frequency, and/or efficiency of air quality data transmissions to EPA (e.g., possibly including real-time data transmissions).

- Develop/test approaches to implement machine-to-machine transfers of queried data using Web services and CDX.
- If maintaining significant air quality data assets that are not currently in AQS, develop approaches for using the Exchange Network to provide partners with secure access to the data.

Facility Registry System (FRS)

System Description

FRS is a national database of facility identification information. It covers all facilities (places, stations, and sites) that are subject to environmental regulations or are of environmental interest, such as Federal facilities, industrial facilities, and facilities on tribal reservations. Key identifying information stored in FRS includes facility names, alternate facility names, geographic locations (i.e., latitude/longitude), mailing addresses, points of contact, permit and system identification numbers, industrial codes, and parent organizational structures. FRS receives data from EPA's national environmental information systems and from the States, and it can receive user input from an Error Correction Web service application found in Envirofacts and the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO). The FRS database directly supports EPA's Envirofacts Data Warehouse Web site, the ECHO Web site, and the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS). It is also used by many EPA applications, such as Window to My Environment and EnviroMapper.

Status and Plans

- FRS data exchanges using the Exchange Network have been in production since October 2003.
- The Facility Identification schema is available on the Exchange Network Registry (<http://www.exchangenetwork.net>), and it conforms with the XML Design Rules and Conventions Version 1.0.
- EPA currently plans to release Web services to publish FRS facility data through CDX in late 2003.

Suggested Activities for Exchange Network Partners

- Begin exchanging State and Tribal facility identification records with FRS via CDX.
- Develop the capability to use the Exchange Network to obtain, use, and

integrate facility data from FRS with other State/Tribal/local data.

National Emission Inventory (NEI)

System Description

NEI is a national database of air emissions information which includes input from numerous State and local air agencies, Tribes, industry, and other Federal databases [e.g., EPA's Clean Air Markets Division (CAMD) Emission Tracking System, Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Program, and the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)]. The database contains information on stationary and mobile sources that emit criteria air pollutants and precursors, as well as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). NEI data are used for air dispersion modeling, tracking emission trends, and developing risk assessments, regulations, and regional pollution control strategies.

Status and Plans

- *XML Schema:* In 2004, upgraded schema will be developed for NEI Point Source, Area Non-Road, and On-Road Mobile data.
- *Pilot Data Exchanges:* EPA will conduct pilot NEI data exchanges with States in 2004.

Suggested Activities for Exchange Network Partners

- Develop approaches/processes to improve the quality of the data in State emissions inventory systems.
- Develop and participate in technical approaches to check the quality of data in State emissions inventory systems and transfer files to ensure that the data are compatible with NEI data content requirements, before the States submit their emissions inventory data to EPA and after the data are submitted to EPA through CDX.
- If maintaining significant emissions data assets that are not currently in NEI, describe the business case(s) and develop approaches for using the Exchange Network to provide partners with secure access to the data, including the documentation of data quality checks that have been performed on the data files that are made available.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRAInfo)

System Description

RCRAInfo is a national database that contains data reported by States and Regions on facilities that handle hazardous wastes and are regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and equivalent State statutes. RCRAInfo includes five major modules: