

Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) and expanded by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990. The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is a publicly available database that contains information on toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities reported annually by certain covered industry groups, as well as Federal facilities. States collect the same information from the same reporting population for their own records.

Status and Plans

- **TRI-ME:** EPA finalized the TRI-ME software for Reporting Year (RY) 2002 in March 2003, making the TRI-ME/CDX process completely paperless. Planning for RY 2003 software will begin in the Fall of 2003.

Suggested Activities for Exchange Network Partners

- Work with EPA to develop common reporting formats that would make it easier for regulated facilities to submit TRI data to States and EPA simultaneously.
- Work with EPA to develop tools/applications that use TRI data that will be made available through Web services using the Exchange Network.
- Develop processes that reduce the amount of time EPA and States must spend on reconciling TRI data received from regulated facilities.

Future Data Flow Activities

As indicated in the introduction to this section, ICIS-NPDES and STORET will receive less emphasis under the FY 2004 Exchange Network Grants Program than the information systems listed above (*i.e.*, AQS, FRS, NEI, RCRAInfo, SDWIS, or TRIS). The following information on ICIS-NDES and STORET is provided primarily to assist Exchange Network partners in planning activities in FY 2005 and beyond.

Integrated Compliance Information System—National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (ICIS-NPDES) System

System Description

ICIS-NPDES is a modernized version of the Permit Compliance System (PCS). It supports traditional wastewater discharge program functions (*e.g.*, permitting, compliance monitoring, and enforcement), as well as new functions for special regulatory programs [*e.g.*, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO)]. ICIS-NPDES allows data exchanges using XML, Web services, and Web forms and provides links to other databases (*i.e.*, FRS, TMDL, RAD, SRS).

Status and Plans

- **XML Schema:** The draft ICIS-NPDES schema is available for States to begin initial data mapping of State system data to ICIS-NPDES. The final ICIS-NPDES schema will be available by June 2004, at which time States can begin finalizing their ICIS-NPDES schema mapping. Testing of the submission/acceptance of XML schema by the ICIS-NPDES system can begin in March 2006. By September 2006, OECA expects to complete the implementation of State NPDES XML data flows into ICIS-NPDES and will no longer accept flat file transfers from States into legacy PCS.

Suggested Activities for Exchange Network Partners in FY 2005 and Beyond

The modernization of legacy PCS into ICIS-NPDES will affect three groups of States:

- (1) States that currently submit flat files to legacy PCS.
 - (2) States that are currently using the CDX-PCS Interim Data Exchange Format (IDEF) or have already been in discussions with EPA about doing so, and
 - (3) States that are currently indirect users of legacy PCS and/or wish to become direct users of ICIS-NPDES.
- States that currently submit flat files to legacy PCS and those that are current/scheduled users of CDX-PCS IDEF may wish to consider some of the following activities, which will support the exchange of NPDES XML data with ICIS-NPDES using the Exchange Network:

- Obtain technical training and support for using XML.
 - Extract and convert the data from State NPDES systems into the XML format needed to submit data to ICIS-NPDES.
 - Modify State systems to accommodate the new/revised data requirements of ICIS-NPDES.
 - Modify State data extraction/conversion software to accommodate new/revised ICIS-NPDES submission and transaction types (*e.g.*, for special regulatory programs).
 - In coordination with EPA, clean up the State data in legacy PCS as needed to move the data into ICIS-NPDES.
 - In coordination with EPA, synchronize and then migrate the data in legacy PCS to ICIS-NPDES.
 - Develop XML export capabilities to generate XML data documents using ICIS-NPDES schema.
 - Implement node-to-node communications with CDX.
- States that wish to become direct, on-line, users of ICIS-NPDES—rather than

submitting data in the XML format through the Exchange Network—may be eligible for funding under a separate grant which OECA plans to offer in FY 2004. Please contact David Piantanida at (202) 564-8318 for further information and assistance about relevant OECA grants.

Storage and Retrieval System (STORET)

System Description

STORET is EPA's main repository of water quality and biological monitoring data. It contains data obtained from a variety of organizations across the United States ranging from small volunteer watershed groups to State and Federal environmental agencies. Currently, data are entered into a locally operated copy of STORET through the use of a series of desktop validation software applications provided by EPA. These data are centralized at EPA and made available to the public through an Internet accessible data warehouse. This architecture ensures that data owners maintain complete control over data content, while at the same time, promoting shared access to these data through the EPA data warehouse.

Status and Plans

- (1) **XML Schema:** XML tags which support the Office of Water's Water Quality Data Elements (WQDE) have been published for review. A joint project with the EPA Beaches Program has produced an XML schema which supports a limited subset of Beach Monitoring data and allows data transfer from participating States to EPA. OW plans to develop full STORET XML v2.0 schema(s) by February 2005 which will build off the existing WQDE XML tags and schema from the Beaches project.

- **Future Development:** A task is currently underway to provide specifications for support software (transaction based load modules) necessary to enable STORET to fully participate in the Exchange Network. These software specifications are expected by mid-2004, and will become the foundation for software modules necessary to achieve this goal. States can begin mapping data in State systems to the STORET schema(s) in March 2005. Testing of submission/acceptance of XML schema(s) by the STORET database will take place in October through December 2005. By February 2006, OW plans to complete the implementation of XML data flows into STORET through CDX. STORET will continue to fully support and operate the existing process for moving data from remote copies of STORET to the central STORET Warehouse. STORET