



ECOS Data Management Work Group

September 21, 2009

Whitefish, Montana

Meeting Notes

Featured Speaker

Lisa Schlosser, Director, Office of Information Collection, Office of Environmental Information

OEI Overview

- Greenhouse gas rule – Linda Travers will address in the Climate and Energy Subcommittee; will try to capitalize on the Exchange Network to collect data
- TRI – can see improved results since last reporting cycle
- NatureServe – in 2007 EPA awarded NatureServe a seven-year contract to work with the agency to collect information and data on species and habitats...that information should help ECOS members identify needs so they can go out and help folks with their EISs
- Water data – OEI shares best practices; example: the performance measurement system built for the Chesapeake Bay can be shared with other large body ecosystems
- Geospatial information systems includes new ARRA reporting and metadata tools
- Exchange Network – focusing on completing the regulatory flows
- Innovation with web 2.0 tools – water and radon – sponsored a contest with a \$2,500. prize through YouTube to create a video that 'gets the word out'. EPA received several hundred good videos...of which one was selected that effectively promotes the issue; the whole effort most likely won't cost EPA over \$5,000
- ARRA – instead of creating something new for 1512 reporting, the government evaluated existing systems.
- OEI Environmental Information Symposium – tentatively scheduled for May 2010
- EITLC – formally launched in September; a place to share best practices, code, new tools, and solutions. EITLC is inviting everyone to vote on their most important needs/issues on the EITLC wiki now through Oct. 16 (http://eitlc.ross-assoc.net/index.php/Category:EITLC_Issues)

Exchange Network Activities

- ECOS 2009 EN resolution (<http://www.ecos.org/section/policy/resolution/?committee=7>) - EPA followed up with a July 7, 2009 Adm. Jackson memo to promote the EN as the preferred way to exchange information. Linda Travers subsequently sent out a July 28, 2009 memo to the National Program Managers regarding implementation. Currently engaging the regions (ARAs, NPMs, et al) to urge them to meet with states; want everyone to be in sync
- EIS – is a success and CERS is a good model
- Texas NetDMR – states must be CROMERR-compliant to use
- Urging tribes to become more active in utilizing the EN
- Future of the EN – state-to-state sharing of data; enviro-to-public health sharing within a state; expand CROMERR tools; reduce costs/burdens
- EN Grants funding - \$10 million in '07 and same level expected through FY 2011; current deadline is November 20

CROMERR

- EPA responded to ECOS's latest letter the previous Friday, September 18 (http://www.ecos.org/files/3845_file_OECA_Response_Ltr_to_ECOS_9_18_09.pdf)
- EPA does not anticipate extending the deadline; grandfathering of existing systems unlikely

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- MA – problem with older, more mature system still not resolved – Lisa committed to meet with them (scheduled for late October)
- IA – state doesn't have the money to build and implement CROMERR – paper may be their only option
- HI – may lose their entire IT staff in the next round of budget cuts
- IN – even though they have an approved plan, still need more time for testing and integration; also have a resource problem
- Need transitioning period in lieu of grandfathering existing systems
- Morris (DMWG) – is this an action item to be passed on to the EITLC? How? They could help us find out what the real universe is with respect to where states are with CROMERR
- Chain reaction – what other programs or systems will start to have problems as a result of CROMERR resource issues? Morris: EITLC could look at that, as well
- Lisa Lund (EPA) - EITLC should share best practices among the states...that hasn't been done yet
- OK – how soon can states expect to hear back from EPA? A: Within two weeks of receiving an application EPA will have reviewed the technical aspects and responded to states to identify any problems
- Some states have multiple systems that will have to be CROMERR compliant
- What does EPA do about non-delegated state programs? A: There is one central EPA solution; EPA had to submit only once.

Water Enforcement and Compliance Data Issues

ICIS-NPDES

Full Batch Integrated Project Team – Melanie Morris (MS), DMWG Vice-chair

- Overview of recent past efforts between states and EPA were outlined in Melanie's presentation (http://www.ecos.org/section/committees/information_management)
- An EPA email inviting states to participate in the ICIS-NPDES Integrated Project Team (IPT) was sent out the previous Friday, September 18, by John Dombrowsky
- Batch states really need to be at the table for the IPT to be successful
- ICIS-NPDES problems – shows we need to follow the principles of the EN
- Lisa Lund - agrees that batch states (22) should be on the IPT; also says there has been no deviation from the commitment to the EN

OECA 90-day Plan

Update – David Nicholas, ECOS Staff to Compliance Committee

- ECOS has responded to the NY Times articles on enforcement of the water programs and especially the data as it relates to those programs <http://www.ecos.org/section/policy/letters/?committee=6>)
- ECOS offered comments to EPA on the 90-day action plan <http://www.ecos.org/section/committees/compliance>
- ECOS anticipates that EPA will brief states on the plan in early October
- Similar data release are planned for the RCRA and Air programs

Exchange Network Leadership Council Update

Mitch West, Exchange Network Coordinator

- The Texas business case was presented
- The state template that measures the progress of regulatory flows was discussed

(Note: time ran out and the presentation was cut short)