

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE MARCH 14, 2007
ECMPS STAKEHOLDER MEETING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

Q: When is the file import Interactive Processing Mode used?

A: The file import Interactive Processing Mode allows the user to confirm that each file should be imported after validation, rather than allowing all valid files to be imported automatically through a batch process.

Q: Can files be imported from multiple stations?

A: Any valid XML file can be imported into the Client Tool. However, users are prevented from submitting files to the EPA Host System if they are not authorized to do so for that facility.

Q: In MDC, each of the codes used in monitoring plan data was defined. Does ECMPS have the same definitions?

A: Each screen has content-specific Help. In addition, when a value is selected in a dropdown list, the definition appears to the right of the field.

Q: Is it possible to preload customized values in the dropdown lists?

A: No.

Q: The certification statements in MDC are specific to the type of user. Is it the same in ECMPS?

A: Yes.

Q: What will the certification statement be if an agent represents two people?

A: This has not been determined yet.

Q: Can an agent submit for the Designated Representative?

A: Yes, but the Designated Representative is ultimately held responsible for the data that is submitted to the EPA Host System.

Q: What level of access do agents have to data?

A: There will be a variety access levels. The types of agents have not been determined yet.

Q: How soon will users in a local Client Tool network be able to view data that is submitted to the EPA Host System by other network users?

A: Users on a shared database will always see the same data in real time as they are accessing the same set of data. Users with separate local databases, but access to the same facilities, will be able to view data that other users have submitted to the EPA Host System as soon as the data are processed by the EPA Host System.

Q: Can data reports be downloaded from the EPA Host System?

A: This information will be available on the Data and Maps website. The time required to process data and display data on the Data and Maps website is being optimized as much as possible.

Q: If there are two Client Tools installed on a shared database, is it possible to download data from the EPA Host System that was submitted using the other Client Tool?

A: Yes. Data submitted to the EPA Host System from a shared database are immediately available to other network users for synchronization purposes.

Q: How were the criticality levels determined? In the demonstration example, a minor monitoring method error is a Critical Error Level 1 that would preclude submittal.

A: All critical errors must be fixed in order for the data to be loaded into the EPA Host System. The criticality level of errors may be modified in the future.

Q: Is data made available to the public via the Internet? Currently, data that are submitted to EPA are not available until May or June of the following year.

A: As is currently done, Data and Maps will make some of the submitted data accessible to the public. It has not yet been determined how quickly data will be available. Because EPA intends to use the site to analyze data, data processing will be optimized as much as possible.

Q: Will agents and their level of access be assigned through the CAMD Business System (CBS)?

A: Yes.

Q: Can an ECMPS agent transfer allowances in CBS?

A: No. These are two different agent types.

Q: Is agent functionality available in the Beta testing version of the Client Tool?

A: No.

Q: Are submission logs stored on my local Client Tool?

A: Yes. Records of all submissions to the EPA Host System are stored in the user's local database as a submission log that can be viewed in the Log module.

Q: How will EPA determine if a file was submitted on time?

A: A submission ID is generated each time data are submitted to the EPA Host System, which an EPA analyst can use to track the submission details.

Q: Are submission logs printable for audit purposes?

A: There are no printable reports for logs in the Beta version of the Client Tool, but this functionality will be added prior to releasing the production version. In addition, users will receive a feedback report that contains a record of data errors. The 30-day limit for resubmitting data that were submitted to the EPA Host System with errors will not change.

Q: If EPA is unable to receive a submission, will the attempt to submit be considered compliance with regulations?

A: Yes. If the EPA Host System is unable to receive submissions for some reason, this will be taken into consideration when determining if a submission was made during the submission period. If the submission problem occurs because of an issue with the local Client Tool database, a message will notify the user why the data were not submitted, and the EPA Host System will record the date and time of the failed submission.

Q: Is it possible to lose a submission log because of local system failures during submission?

A: If a computer error causes the Client Tool to shut down abnormally, the next time synchronization with the EPA Host System occurs, the Client Tool will attempt to update all outstanding submission log information. Depending on when the shutdown occurred, the Client Tool will be able to complete this update. If the shutdown occurred prior to or during transmission of the data, the user may be required to resubmit the data. The production version of the Client Tool will include functionality to back-up a local database.

Q: Why do the QA test numbers have many more characters than they had in MDC? Is it still possible for a user to assign test numbers?

A: The QA Reporting Instructions will clarify the process for naming tests. In ECMPS, each test is required to have a unique number. For legacy data, test numbers will be assigned.

Q: What if a QA test is assigned an incorrect number?

A: This has not been determined yet.

Q: If a test is submitted with a critical error and is then resubmitted, is a new test number assigned?

A: Unlike MDC, ECMPS does not allow QA tests to be resubmitted. The EPA Host System will not allow a test to be submitted that is an exact duplicate of another test. It is possible to update an incorrect injection record.

Q: Why is there functionality in the Client Tool to add injections and test summary records when this information is in the DAHS?

A: Most users will not need to use this functionality. However, it has been provided for users who do not have a DAHS or wish to make their edits in the Client Tool.

Q: Is it possible to type values into the dropdown lists?

A: No. The user must select one of the values in the list.

Q: Is it possible to add a comment to certification statements?

A: No. The 910 EDR comment fields have been replaced by comments for individual QA tests on the Add/Edit QA Data screens and by the Monitoring Plan Comments screen in the Monitoring Plan Data module.

Q: Is the local database synchronized with the EPA Host System each time a login occurs?

A: Yes. Each time a user logs into the EPA Host System, the synchronization process determines if there are any differences between the local database and the EPA Host System.

Q: How does synchronization work when three people share a local database using a network?

A: If one user in a shared database submits data to the EPA Host System, the other users will not need to synchronize because the shared database will contain the latest data.

Q: If an agent is restricted from submitting data, will this affect the agent's ability to synchronize?

A: No.

Q: Can summary hourly data be exported separately?

A: Yes.

Q: For daily checking, is it possible to evaluate sub-quarterly emissions files?

A: Yes. A user can evaluate partial quarters, but the evaluations are not cumulative. To check emissions data day by day or week by week, the user must include all previously evaluated data from that quarter each time an evaluation is performed. Only evaluations of complete quarters are considered when a user attempts to submit emissions data to the EPA Host System.

Q: Are all errors evaluations stored in the ETS-FTP Mainframe system included in the ECMPS data on the EPA Host System?

A: Yes. ECMPS includes all of the evaluation checks that are in the current ETS-FTP Mainframe system. There are also additional evaluation checks that are being added.

Q: How will processing speed be limited by computer performance?

A: One goal of beta testing is to determine what system requirements will ensure that the Client Tool processes run quickly. The number of facilities for which a user is responsible will also affect the amount of time that is required to retrieve, submit, etc.

Q: If there are computer problems, is it possible to remove the Client Tool without affecting anything else on the computer?

A: Yes. The Client Tool is a separate thread on the computer.

Q: Will I need the 2.0 framework to install the Client Tool?

A: Yes, however, the Client Tool installation includes all the software necessary to run the Client Tool.

Q: Is broadband Internet service required to use the Client Tool?

A: It is recommended that users use broadband Internet access. Dial-up Internet access has not been tested. If dial-up were used, it would seem likely that the initial synchronization may take a significantly longer time to complete, and it may be necessary to submit files to the EPA Host System one at a time.

Q: Are there checks on historical data?

A: All historical monitoring plan data must be error-free. Changes to historical monitoring plan data require resubmission of the monitoring plan data to the EPA Host System.

Q: What historical data are contained in the EPA Host System?

A: The data on the EPA Host System will include all data going back to the beginning of 2003.

Q: Can I retrieve a previous version of a monitoring plan after it has been changed and submitted to the EPA Host System?

A: No. Monitoring plan files are considered a package of data so each time these files are submitted to the EPA Host System, the old file is overwritten.

Q: Will the Client Tool be available in the first quarter of 2008?

A: This has not been determined yet.

Q: Will CAIR functionality be included in the Client Tool?

A: Certification applications for CAIR NO_x will be submitted through MDC. Guidance documents are being formulated. CAIR SO₂ and mercury certification needs further discussion. There will be more information available about these programs at the next stakeholder meeting in May 2007.