

**ECMPS Stakeholder Meeting -- Questions and Answers
St. Louis, Missouri
May 12, 2009, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Q1: Can I begin submitting ozone-season-only monitoring plans now?

Yes. All historical data submitted prior to 2008 are available in ECMPS.

Q2: If I make monitoring plan changes, should I complete the associated QA tests immediately or at the end of the quarter?

The timeline for certification applications has not changed; they must be submitted within 45 days of the recertification event.

Q3: I am receiving critical errors for QA data that were previously submitted via the legacy system.

Generally, the Client Tool does not require that you evaluate and submit previously submitted data. However, if data are changed, then you must evaluate and submit the data.

Currently, all data that have not been evaluated by the Client Tool have a status of "Needs Evaluation." However, historical data do not actually need to be evaluated, so we are in the process of modifying the Client Tool so that it will not display the "Needs Evaluation" status for historical data.

Retrieving or importing historical QA data is not recommended because once these data are downloaded into the Client Tool, they will be part of the local database and may cause misleading error messages.

If you believe you are receiving a false critical error, submit a ticket to technical support so that the situation can be addressed.

Q4: Will eliminating the "Needs Evaluation" status for historical QA data eliminate all of the critical errors in my historical QA data?

The Client Tool was not designed to generate critical errors for historical data. If you are receiving critical errors for historical data, you should submit a ticket to technical support.

However, during the transition from the legacy system to ECMPS, some legitimate critical errors may be identified that need to be corrected before 2009 data can be submitted.

Q5: *I think that there are some new checks in ECMPS that were not in MDC, especially related to Appendix D. I think that may be the source of some of the QA critical errors that people are talking about.*

Additional Appendix D checking takes place in ECMPS, but there were also inaccuracies in reporting historical Appendix D data.

Q6: *It would help if you would reconsider the resubmission approach. In some cases, when incorrect data are submitted inadvertently, it is burdensome to contact EPA for permission to resubmit.*

The EPA requires that permission be granted to resubmit data to ensure that the EPA Host System contains the most accurate data possible. When submitting a ticket to request resubmission, provide an explanation for the resubmission. The process for providing resubmission permission has been streamlined to make this as efficient as possible.

Q7: *Can I evaluate on an ongoing basis or do I have to wait for a full quarter of data?*

You can evaluate a subset of data at any point. Note that evaluations of partial quarters always generate a critical error for lacking a full quarter of data.

Q8: *When would I choose not to synchronize a monitoring configuration?*

Generally, it depends on your business process. If two people are responsible for the same data, and Person A submits a monitoring plan while Person B is making changes to the same monitoring plan, Person B would not want to overwrite any changes, so s/he would choose not to synchronize at that point. Person B would finish making the changes, export the monitoring plan data, synchronize with the EPA Host System, and then import the monitoring plan file back into the Client Tool. In addition, if you are responsible for several monitoring configurations, choosing to synchronize only the configuration that you are working with at that time will decrease the synchronization time and make the process more efficient.

Q9: *Does the synchronization process merge or overwrite data?*

Synchronization merges QA test history and other supplemental data. It will replace monitoring plan data if the monitoring plan data in the Client Tool and the EPA Host System have the same set of monitoring locations, systems, components, and formulas. This means that before any monitoring plan changes are made, the source should first synchronize the monitoring plan that will be edited.

Q10: *If my monitoring plan is actually retired but its status in the Client Tool is "Active," how do I remedy that?*

Typically, this means that the unit stack configuration records are incorrect. Approximately two thirds of monitoring plans were submitted for the first time in 2009, which means that many people had to correct unit stack configuration information that had been submitted via EDRs.

In the monitoring plan module, correct the unit stack configuration records, and then submit that entire monitoring plan. The EPA Host System will be updated, and the status will appear as "Retired" in the Client Tool. When making configuration changes, contact technical support or your EPA Analyst if you have any questions.

Q11: *Could there be a "Select All" option for printing reports?*

This enhancement will be considered.

Q12: *Could you add a "Back" button on the Test History Report that allows me to go back and select another monitoring configuration?*

This enhancement will be considered.

Q13: *When you evaluate QA files, you can choose to evaluate QA/Cert Tests, events, and/or extensions and exemptions. Should I select all of those?*

Filters are provided to allow you to evaluate a subset of data. For instance, if you only want to submit QA events, you have the option to evaluate and submit only the event data. All QA data must be evaluated prior to submission, so selecting all three data types will ensure that all data are evaluated.

Q14: *Will the data loaded into ECMPS be the data that I submitted via MDC or will it be the data that is posted on Data and Maps? Sometimes Data and Maps displays data that I did not submit -- for example, SO₂ and NO_x data for an oil-fired unit.*

Data posted on the Data and Maps website include allocations that were not submitted by sources. The data in ECMPS are loaded from the legacy Mainframe database, which only includes data that were submitted.

Q15: *If a Client Tool software update takes place during a reporting period and I have already submitted data, do I have to reevaluate and resubmit that data?*

No.

Q16: *I have received an error that my values for a certain parameter do not match EPA's calculated values. Where can I view EPA's calculated values?*

To view EPA's calculated data, the data must be evaluated first. Then, the Quarterly Summary Values will display reported and calculated values. For hourly calculation values, on the View Emissions screen, there are columns for calculated values, which display the reported and calculated values for each hour.

Q17: *Is the EPA calculated value a summation of the hourly values, or the sum of the quarterly values?*

For year-to-date values, accepted quarterly values are added, and then the EPA calculated values for any data that have not yet been submitted are added.

Q18: *Can you stop the filters on the Emissions screens from popping up automatically if the mouse hovers over them?*

Yes. That is a known issue that we are planning to resolve.

Q19: *Why am I asked to send an email to technical support rather than speaking with a person over the phone?*

The email system was put in place for tracking purposes. There are support phone lines available.

Q20: *Is it possible to implement a process that allows me to classify my question as a simple question that should not take long to answer, which will move my question ahead of more complicated questions?*

The Frequently Asked Questions on the ECMPS Support website are intended to provide answers to simple questions. We are also redesigning the support website to help you find answers more quickly.

Q21: *Is there a table that lists the tolerances that are being used? And have any tolerances been changed from MDC?*

There is a table of tolerances in the Check Specifications documentation. Yes, there have been changes from MDC.

Q22: *What is the status of a version of the Client Tool that operates on 64-bit operating systems? The website said that it was coming, but last week I was told that it is still not available.*

We have completed a version of the Client Tool that operates on 64-bit operating systems, but we have not completed an installation package for that version yet. That is planned for the June 2009 release.

Q23: *Has there been any progress on providing Client Tool access to users who are not agents -- consultants and testers, etc.?*

We are discussing the most efficient way to move forward with this. It is planned for the future at this time. We have asked for feedback on this topic; there is a sheet in the packet of materials for this meeting for you to provide your feedback.

Q24: *We would like to see a submission log that lists submissions for all agents, not just ourselves.*

There have been a number of suggestions today. We would like you to submit these types of enhancements to technical support for tracking purposes. For this particular issue, we have had comments from some people that do not want this functionality.

Q25: *Most companies have a designated representative (DR) at the Vice President level. DRs have authorized agents to complete tasks on their behalf. We would like the DR to be able to totally authorize an agent to do all of their tasks, including assigning agents.*

Legal counsel has not approved this in the past. We allow paper forms to be completed by agents and simply signed by DRs, which is the most we can do at this point.