

**Questions and Answers from the February 9, 2006
ECMPS Stakeholder Meeting
Washington, DC**

Q: Since alpha testing is scheduled to occur between April 1 and mid-May 2006, will there be a second round of testing in August 2006 with more functionality?

A: No. The beta testing period will be used for testing most aspects of the ECMPS Client Tool, and is planned to begin in April, 2007.

Q: Security is an issue for many facilities. Who does a specific task, and who is allowed to do specific tasks is important. How is this being addressed in the ECMPS Client Tool?

A: There are two types of users of the ECMPS Client Tool: (1) System managers who can set up other users as well as add and delete users. By default, the tool is set up with a user that has system manager privileges. (2) Regular users who can only change their own information, password, and CAMD Business System information.

The user ID and last update date will be tracked as part of the ECMPS Client Tool user management to enable you to determine who has made changes to data, and who has submitted data. In addition, there is some flexibility so that the ECMPS Client Tool can be set up to require passwords. If you are concerned about security, you can have the database on a separate server and set up users with specific privileges.

Q: Will the ECMPS Client Tool need to be installed in order to use the SQL Server Client?

A: It is not necessary to install the ECMPS Client Tool in order to use the SQL Server Client. For example, there can be a single database with multiple users.

Q: What data will be editable through the ECMPS Client Tool?

A: Users will be able to import and edit Monitoring Plan and QA/Cert Test data. In addition, users will be able to import Emissions data, but Emissions data will not be editable through the ECMPS Client Tool. Editing data using the ECMPS Client Tool is optional.

Q: What platform will the ECMPS Client Tool run on? What if I already have a version of SQL Server 2005 installed on my computer?

A: The ECMPS Client Tool can be installed on any Windows-based system. You can use more than one database; however, you will run into problems if you name a database with the same name as the installed version of the database. The default name for the installed version of the database will be ECMPS.

Q: Will the person at corporate and the person who is responsible to submit be able to pull down the same data from the EPA Host System?

If the person at corporate is an agent, then he or she will be able to synchronize the data in the ECMPS Client Tool. Both corporate and the Representative will have access to the same information.

Q: In what format will the data be presented to the public?

A: We have not yet determined the format of the data that will be available from the public web site.

Q: For user security, will there be the ability to lock someone out?

A: There will be no record-locking or table-locking level of security.

Q: If the user has server-side security, how can a patch be applied?

A: The System Manager will be able to make the update or apply the patch. We will provide a script for SQL Server to run with the correct privileges (as a SQL Server database administrator) only in the case of a separate SQL Server database.

Q: If you add a new check for QA/Cert Test, what level of version management is this, major, minor or revision?

A: This would be either a minor or maybe a version change; it is unlikely that it would be a major revision.

The biggest issue is whether a user can install the upgrade or if they will need the assistance of the IT Department in order to upgrade. CAMD is considering keeping major upgrades to one calendar year. These could be planned months in advance and include a list of revisions. This should alleviate user concerns about last minute version changes around submission time. Users would know about upgrades well in advance.

Q: Will the XML tags for data elements be unique?

A: The XML tags that are unique to this program will need to get approval from other government agencies. CAMD has not received an update on where this stands at this time.

Q: If there is incorrect column spacing or improper alignment in the XML files, will that generate errors?

A: Formatting of the XML files will not matter; however, the correct order and proper nesting are required to prevent errors.

Q: Will Critical Level 1, 2, or 3 errors that are canceled by the EPA analyst contain notes that they have been canceled?

A: The ECMPS Client Tool has a Submission Log. In general, files with critical errors that cannot go into the production database will be flagged and include a reason for the cancellation.

Q: Can I make a non-critical change and resubmit (for example, update the comment field)? If so, will the EPA keep both submissions?

A: If the resubmission is for the same test, there will be a record of every submission in XML format; however, the official version will include the most recent comment. The information in the database would overwrite what was previously in the comment field.

During import of Monitoring Plan data, the tool will merge data during import. The entire Monitoring Plan and its history will be in the tool. The import of QA and Emissions data will be a complete replacement of the data in the ECMPS Client Tool.

Q: What about critical errors due to software bugs?

A: For critical errors due to software bugs, there will be a way for the EPA to flag the data to indicate that "the submission is okay." The tool will not block a user from being able to submit. In the event of a crash in the ECMPS Client Tool, the EPA will still allow users to submit the XML file to the EPA via email. If there is a technical problem with the ECMPS Client Tool that prevents submission, the EPA will try to resolve the problem to allow the user to submit the file through the ECMPS Client Tool. **As in the past, these types of problems will be handled on a case-by-case basis.**

Q: With regard to file resubmissions, will users be able to submit only Monitoring Plan, only QA, or only Emissions data?

A: Yes. One caveat is that Emissions data must be submitted for a full calendar quarter. Users can perform an evaluation on partial data; however, they will not be allowed to submit partial Emissions data.

Q: What is the timeline for the transition to the ECMPS Client Tool? In 2008, can users submit in both EDR and ECMPS Client Tool format? (During this transition year, the ECMPS Client Tool will include new checks while MDC and ETS will not.)

A: In 2008, users can submit EDRs using ETS-FTP **or** use the ECMPS Client Tool. However, users must submit all four quarters using one or the other. CAMD is encouraging users to use ECMPS in 2008 to ensure they understand the new system, and work out any issues before they are required to use ECMPS in 2009.

In 2007, there will be no official submissions using the new process. Beta testers will be submitting to the test database only in 2007. It is technically challenging and beyond the scope of the project budget to manage both test and official databases in 2007.

Q: How does the ECMPS Client Tool determine when to synchronize data?

A: Every time that a user submits data using the ECMPS Client Tool, he will be assigned a submission ID, which is like a serial number. Synchronization will compare the submission IDs between the ECMPS Client Tool and the EPA Host System. If the submission IDs are different, the data will be synchronized.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of agents?

A: No, the number of agents who can use the ECMPS Client Tool is not restricted. This works the same way that the CAMD Business System (CBS) does, and it is up to the Representatives to set up agents according to their needs.

Q: How does the ECMPS Client Tool work with the EPA Host System?

A: The ECMPS Client Tool is the portal to the EPA Host System.

Q: Is there a way to provide someone with a working copy of the data?

A: Users can download data from the EPA Host System into the ECMPS Client Tool and then export the data in the XML file format.

Q: How do you populate data in the ECMPS Client Tool the first time you use the tool?

A: Based on the CBS user name that is used to login to the EPA Host System, the ECMPS Client Tool will determine all facilities with a relationship to that user name. During login to the EPA Host System, the facility data will be updated automatically in the ECMPS Client Tool. For Monitoring Plan data, the user can then choose to synchronize one or more of these configurations and work from there with the data in the ECMPS Client Tool.

If you are the only user of the ECMPS Client Tool, the data should always be in synch with the EPA Host System; however, if you are not using a networked version of the ECMPS Client Tool and there are multiple users, the EPA Host System data may differ from the data in the ECMPS Client Tool.

Q: What if there are no changes between the ECMPS Client Tool data and the EPA Host System data?

A: If the Monitoring Plan and Supplemental data are in synch for a configuration, then that configuration will not show up in the list of unsynchronized configurations.

Q: Will the Monitoring Plan, QA, and Emissions be generated as separate files?

A: Yes, the DAHS will generate three separate files for Monitoring Plan, QA, and Emissions and file import will process files in that order for a given configuration.

Q: When a user submits, can he choose what levels to submit?

A: Yes, in the tool you can put multiple files into one batch process. For example, if you finish a QA test early, you will not have to resubmit it. Once the test is submitted the first time, the EPA will have the test.

Q: If a user submits a test early, can he resubmit the test early as well?

A: Yes, the user can submit and will receive immediate feedback. If there is a problem, the user will know right away and can correct the problem and resubmit.

Q: What is the time limit on Login to the EPA Host System?

A: There is a 24 hour limit to the login to the EPA Host System. Synchronization is done during login to the EPA Host System. If a user loses internet connectivity briefly for a few seconds, this should not interrupt the connection to the EPA Host System.

Q: Is there going to be training for ECMPS?

A: If required, there may be training for ECMPS.

Q: Will graphing like that in MDC be available in the ECMPS Client Tool?

A: Graphing may not be available in the ECMPS Client Tool, but the user can export specific Emissions data in comma-delimited (CSV) format.

Q: There is a concern about synchronization. If the Monitoring Plan in the ECMPS Client Tool is not in synch with the EPA Host System, who has the correct Monitoring Plan?

A: The EPA Host System will always have the official Monitoring Plan. The ECMPS Client Tool is not the final repository for data. Once a submission is received by EPA, the data on the EPA Host System becomes the official data.

The process by which users can update the EPA Host System is to synchronize the data in the ECMPS Client Tool, make any necessary changes to the data, run an evaluation, and submit. In this manner, the DAHS and the EPA Host System data will match.

Q: Can dial-up users submit XML files?

A: Users will need broadband. CAMD does not believe Emissions data can be submitted using dial-up.