

STORET User Call Minutes

February 23, 2017

12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM EST

Presenters

Name	Organization
Russell Wasem	USEPA OECA
Bob Greenspun	USEPA OECA
Charles Kovatch	USEPA OWOW
Laura Shumway	USEPA OWOW

Agenda Topics

Water Quality Indicators (WQI) Graphical User Interface (Demo)

- Based on previous feedback have Release Version 1 available
- Background:
 - Originally developed as a component of the CWA action plan
 - Previous Program Focus on Watersheds Assessed to have Poor Water Quality
 - WQI uses available water quality monitoring data in STORET and NWIS
- Project Approach
 - Derive and use TN and TP measurements available in the Water Quality Portal (2009-Present).
 - Taking TN and TP measurement samples, calculates the statistics and compares that to a criteria.
 - OECA was able to combine subspecies of Nitrogen but not subspecies of Phosphorous.
 - Identifying and considering non-detects – currently substituting ½ detection limit
 - Identifying and averaging duplicate samples
 - Identifying and validating ambiguously reported data
 - Identifying and rejecting poorly reported data (ie missing units)
- Scope
 - Nutrients from 2009 -2016
 - Data sources:
 - National Water Quality Monitoring Council
 - ECHO – NPDES permitted facility map service
 - CWA 304(a) National Criteria
 - 303(d) Impaired waters and 305(b) assessed waters
 - USDA Ag Census county Level CAFO concentration

- USGS land cover (taken out but will be included in future releases)
- Release Highlights:
 - Data is refreshed (2009-2016)
 - New Criteria/Breakpoints
 - New minimum number of samples filter
 - New basemap option
 - USDA Ag census county level CAFO concentration layer is available
 - Users can now download csv files of up/downstream NPDES facilities
- Major Caveats:
 - About half the measurements were rejected for missing units or sample fraction
 - 3.1 million out of 5.8 million records were rejected
 - Rejection data file is available upon request
 - Made the determination that only about 40 station types of 120 in the WQ Portal were used. Estuary, ocean, aggregate surface water use, and no type present were not included
- Uses Cases Demoed:
 - Finding potentially impaired water bodies
 - Color of points represent the “amount of concern”
 - User defined criteria is possible
 - Ex McLoud Oklahoma
 - This is screening tool. Determinations should not be made based on the tool.
 - Adding where all of the samples were rejected
 - Showed the amount of stations in Wisconsin where the majority of sites were rejected.
- Future Plans:
 - Would like to release the tool to the public
 - Currently you have to be with a state or EPA and have an ECHO account
 - Pollutants expansion to Pathogens
 - Add USGS land cover map back in
 - Add temporal Filtering
 - Would like to enhance searching
- Laura Shumway Question about why data was reject. Was it just ambiguous in the metadata?
 - It was the metadata that was ambiguous.
 - Will send the rejection list

Possible updates to the WQXWeb Physical Chemical Template

- Putting videos into the instructions tabs on how to use the template in WQXWeb.
- Should we delete the export tab and .txt option?
 - “Seems redundant”

- “I think it would be cleaner to remove it.”
 - “Yes, remove it!”
- Fixing the County code generation
 - You could dropdown and select a county and it would convert it into the county code
 - We need to update that to the county name
- For results, could we possibly have 2 results tabs? Instead of copy and pasting different formats, we could create a tab that is probe vertical data.
 - Less work on the data entry side
 - “It would be a good thing if all of the meta data was there”
 - “Method data is desirable. There are different types of DO probes.”
 - Many are providing analytical data with probe data. Not a model number
 - Laura: Conversation is pushing her in the direction of not including the second results tab.
- Should have every column populated in the template when you download it. People were having a hard time knowing what certain columns were for
 - Will populate every column in the template
- Data Logger Line
 - Will be removed
- Activity ID
 - Removing from template and having it generated for the user?
 - “if we have our own activity ids, one generated by WQX would be unnecessary”
 - Decided to keep it but add a automatically generate Activity Id Button
- “Conditional Formatting Idea”
 - Was agreed upon that this would be a good update
- Results Analytical Method Context:
 - Be able to choose a method ID and the Method context automatically generates for the user. So the user doesn’t have to match and they are never off
- “It would be cool to have online spreadsheets that are linked to the lookup tables - that's what we are looking toward for the future”
 - Currently being thought about but there is some complexity.