



EPA Geospatial Data Access Project



Increasing Awareness through a Data File Download

What is the Download Service?

The EPA Geospatial Data Access Project provides a download service to an Internet-accessible, extensible markup language (XML) file, Shapefile, and feature class file of specific, geospatial information on facilities/sites of environmental interest to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Either file can be downloaded and used with mapping applications. Both files contain the name, location, and EPA program information about specific facilities and sites. In addition, the files contain a URL (Uniform Resource Locator), which will allow mapping applications to present an option to the user to access additional EPA data resources on a specific facility/site.

Why is the EPA Offering the Download Service?

To improve public health and the environment, the EPA collects information about facilities/sites subject to environmental regulation. Geospatial information is important because it allows the Agency to integrate records across programs (cleanup, air, water, waste, toxics, compliance, etc.) by location. The advantage of the download service is that environmental information is centrally managed, periodically updated in a documented consumable format and includes a URL providing access to further information on a specific location. By creating the download service, the EPA makes data available to mapping services, which will increase public awareness of environmental activities.

Availability

The download service is provided in an XML file, Shapefile, and Feature Class file available through the Envirofacts website. The download service can be found by going to <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/> and clicking on the download service link on the left hand navigation bar. No user authentication is required to access and download the data. In addition, an email notification service is available to alert users of updates.

More Information

Documentation

The EPA stores the locations data in the Facility Registry System (FRS). More information on FRS is available at <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/frs>. The data is packaged in an XML schema and Shapefile.

The XML schema adheres to environmental data standards used by the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (<http://www.exchangenetwork.net>). The standards increase data compatibility, improve consistency, and reduce redundancy by creating shared vocabularies and definitions. Documentation for the XML, Shapefile, and Feature Class file can be found on the download service page referenced above.

Data Availability

January 4, 2008

The data set includes updates to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL); RCRAInfo – Treatment, Storage, Disposal facilities; RCRAInfo – Hazardous Waste Large Quantity Generators; National Environmental Performance Track program; Permit Compliance System (PCS) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Major; Air Facility System (AFS) - Major Dischargers of Air Pollutants; and Toxic Release Inventory System – All reported years

System Requirements

- Web browser
- Connection to the World Wide Web
- Zip file utility
- Geographic Information System (GIS) viewer

Error Correction

As part of EPA's ongoing efforts to improve data quality, the error correction process enables users to directly notify the Agency of data errors. Please click on the **Report an Error** button on the upper right corner of the Envirofacts Geospatial Data Download Web page to improve data quality.

Contacts

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