



How Do I Use the EIS Bridge?

Introduction

To help users convert their NIF 3.0 formatted data to the new EIS CERS XML format, the EPA has developed the EIS Bridge. It is the place for you to:

- Download a set of staging tables in MS Access format for each data category.
- Convert your populated staging tables to an EIS CERS XML file
- Take data from the EIS CERS XML format and load them into your staging tables.

The EIS Bridge will be released in stages. The first version, released on April 3rd, will include the ability to download an empty set of staging tables and to perform checks on the staging tables into which you've loaded data to ensure the formats and data types within each table have not been altered.

The second version will allow you to convert data you download from the EIS Gateway in the EIS CERS format and load it in the staging tables. This version should be available near the middle of April.

The final version of the EIS Bridge will allow you to take data you have loaded into the staging tables and convert them to an EIS CERS XML file for submission to EIS. This version should be available by the middle of May.

At the end of this document is a set of Questions and Answers about the EIS Staging Tables.



Step 1:

From within the EIS Gateway, you will see on the left side of the page a heading entitled “Tools.” Under this heading, select the option “EIS Bridge.”

EIS Gateway
Authenticated Role, S/L/T User Role

FACILITY INVENTORY

- » View and Edit Data
- » Inventory Snapshot
- » View Potential Duplicate Facilities
- » Reporting Code Tables

ACCOUNT DATA

- » My Account
- » My Agency

TOOLS

- » EIS Bridge

SUPPORT

- » Show All Announcements
- » View Support Requests
- » Create Support Request

Home

Emissions Inventory System

Welcome To EIS

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no current announcements

[Home](#) | [Your Profile](#) | [Contact Us](#)



Step 2:

After you have selected the EIS Bridge option from the main page, you will be presented with the EIS Bridge page. It contains information on the functions of the EIS Bridge, any news pertaining to new versions, things you need to be aware of when working with the EIS Bridge and the staging tables, and the link to download the EIS Bridge.

EIS Gateway
Authenticated Role: SALT User Role

FACILITY INVENTORY

- » View and Edit Data
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ACCOUNT DATA

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[Home](#) » [EIS Bridge](#)

EIS Bridge

WELCOME

The EIS Bridge helps you transform your emissions inventory data into CERS XML files. It accomplishes this by providing a set of staging tables into which you may load your data. It then generates a valid CERS XML file using your loaded data.

Here is how to get started:

1. Read the features of the EIS Bridge provided below.
2. Download and install the EIS Bridge application.
3. Download the desired set of staging tables to your desktop.
4. Load your EIS data into the staging tables.
5. Generate a CERS XML file.

LATEST NEWS

Version 0.3:
This release includes the ability to download a new set of staging tables to the desktop. It also includes the ability to detect any changes made to downloaded staging tables (into which you have loaded data) that would prevent the system from generating an EIS CERS XML file.

Version 0.2:
This release includes the ability to download and install the Bridge from the EIS Gateway.

FEATURES

Downloading Staging Tables

Use this feature to download a new set of staging database tables that correspond to a specific data category. Your choices are *Facility Inventory*, *Point*, *Nonpoint*, *Onroad*, *Nonroad*, or *Events*.

Special Instructions

1. While the tables for Facility Inventory and Point Emissions are combined into one set, when run through the EIS Bridge, a separate EIS CERS XML file will be generated for Facility Inventory and for Point Emissions. Both categories of data do not have to be present within the staging tables to generate an XML file. You only need to load the required elements that pertain to the selected data category.
2. Generated XML files are CERS compliant. This means they contain the required data elements; however, there is no guarantee that the EIS will accept your submission. It may reject part or all of your submission if the provided data does not pass QA checks. The Bridge does not perform the EIS QA checks. For more information, refer to the reporting instructions detailed in Sections 5-12 and Appendix 5 of the NEIP.
3. Generated XML files may not include all of your staging data if you do one of the following: :
 - i. Alter the original database file structure. The Bridge will not use your data if you change or remove the original table and column names or data types. It will ignore any data stored in tables or columns you add to a staging file.
 - ii. Supply data with no referential integrity.

Validating Existing XML Files Against the CERS

Do you already have an XML file generated? This feature will verify the structure of your XML file against the CERS. Basic content constraints are also checked.

Special Instructions

1. Validating your XML file against the CERS is mandatory. The EPA will not accept your file if you do not complete a successful validation before submitting via the CDX Node.
2. If you are submitting an unaltered EIS Bridge-generated XML file, you do not need to use this feature. Your file is already CERS compliant. For more information about the XML schema validation rules, refer to Section 5 of the NEIP.

Importing CERS XML Data into Staging Tables

If you want to view your CERS XML data in Microsoft Access 2003 format, use this feature. It imports data from your XML file into a set of staging tables that correspond to a specific data category. Your choices are *Facility Inventory*, *Point*, *Nonpoint*, *Onroad*, *Nonroad*, or *Events*.

Special Instructions

1. This feature only works with CERS XML files downloaded from the EIS Gateway.
2. CERS XML files must contain only one category of data.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

System Requirements

- Microsoft Windows XP
- Microsoft Access 2003*
- Java Virtual Machine 1.6.0_4 or higher

* If you are a Microsoft Access 2007 user, please remember to save your staging files in 2003 format.

DOWNLOAD THE EIS BRIDGE

Click on the link to the right to download the EIS Bridge. A shortcut will be placed on your desktop, which will allow you to access the EIS Bridge.

[Download EIS Bridge](#)

Step 3:

Once you have reviewed the information on the EIS Bridge page, you can download the EIS Bridge by clicking on the link at the bottom of the page.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

System Requirements

- Microsoft Windows XP
- Microsoft Access 2003*
- Java Virtual Machine 1.6.0_4 or higher

* If you are a Microsoft Access 2007 user, please remember to save your staging files in 2003 format.

DOWNLOAD THE EIS BRIDGE

Click on the link to the right to download the EIS Bridge. A shortcut will be placed on your desktop, which will allow you to access the EIS Bridge.

[Download EIS Bridge](#)

Step 4:

After you select the Download EIS Bridge link, a Java window will appear and you will be asked to verify the application. Select YES and the EIS Bridge download process will be completed.

Do you already have an XML file generated? This feature will verify the structure of your XML file against the CERS. Basic content constraints are also checked.

Special Instructions

- Validating your XML file against the CERS is mandatory. The EPA will not accept your file if you do not complete a successful validation.
- If you have an XML file, you can use the EIS Bridge to validate your file. Your file is already CERS compliant.

Importing

If you want to import your XML file into the EIS Bridge, you can use the EIS Bridge to import your XML file into a set of staging tables that will be used to generate the EIS Bridge.

Special Instructions

- The EIS Bridge will verify the structure of your XML file against the CERS. Basic content constraints are also checked.
- CE

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

System Requirements

Java Web Start

Verifying application.

Name: EIS Bridge

Publisher: Environmental Protection Agency

From: https://greenterror.rtpnc.epa.gov

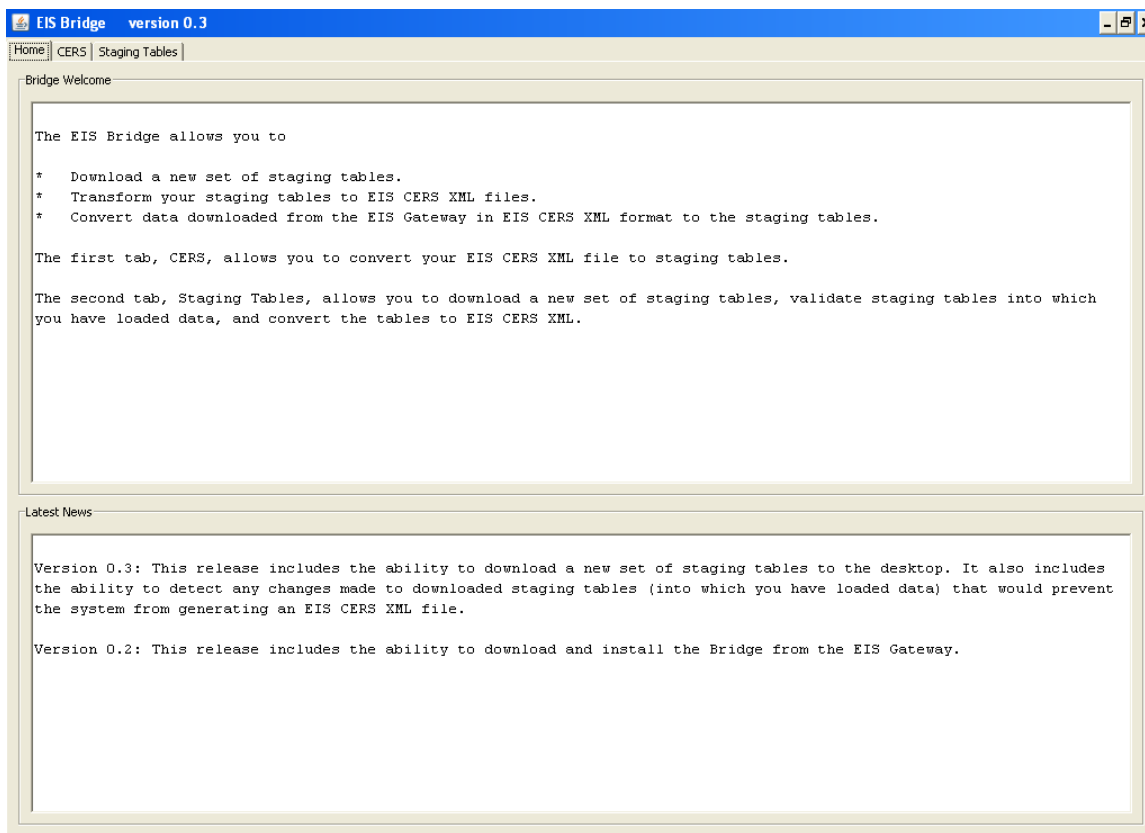
Cancel

An EIS Bridge shortcut will be added to your desktop. This will be the way for you to access the EIS Bridge.



Step 5:

Click on the EIS Bridge shortcut to open the application. You will be presented with this screen, which contains three tabs.



HOME: This tab contains basic information about the EIS Bridge and any news related to updates to the application.

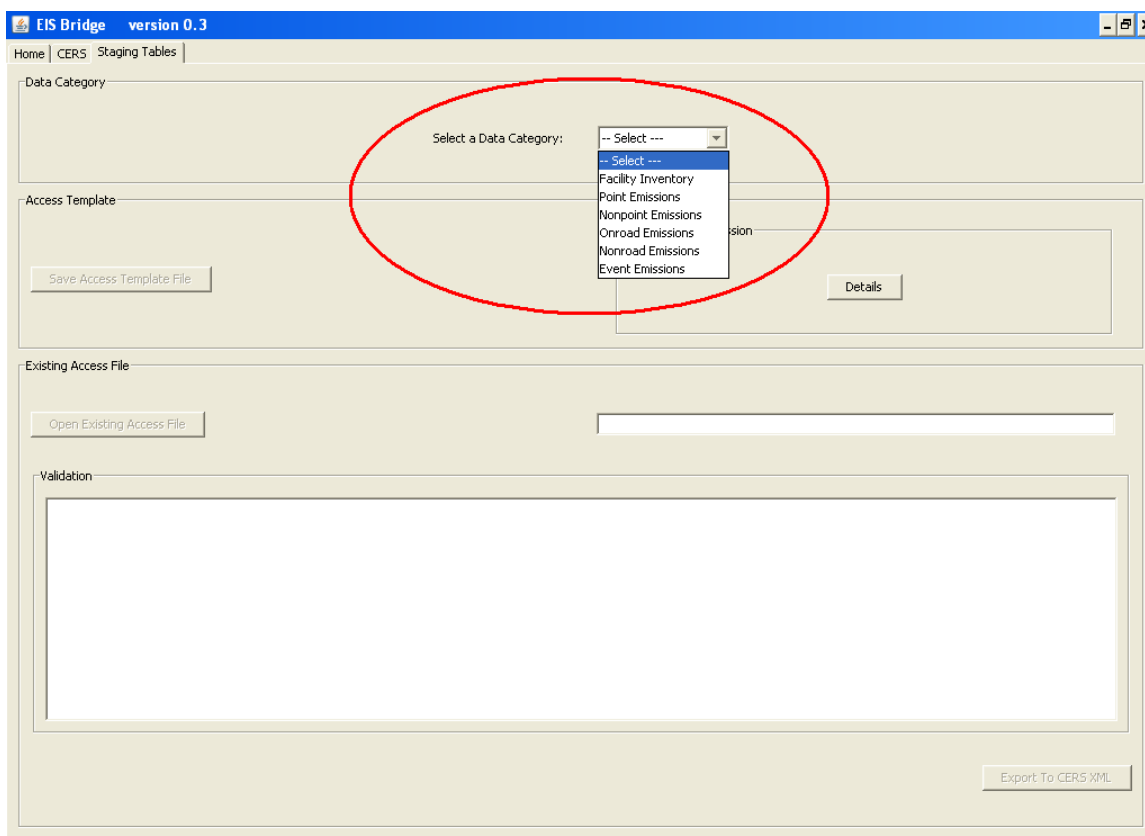
CERS: The functionality under this tab allows you to load data in the EIS CERS XML to the EIS Staging Tables. **This function will not be available until the middle of May.**

STAGING TABLES: The functionality under this tab allows you to do three things: download a clean set of staging tables, to open and validate an existing set of staging tables into which you've loaded data, and to convert your staging tables to the EIS CERS XML. This last feature will not be available until the middle of May.

Step 6:

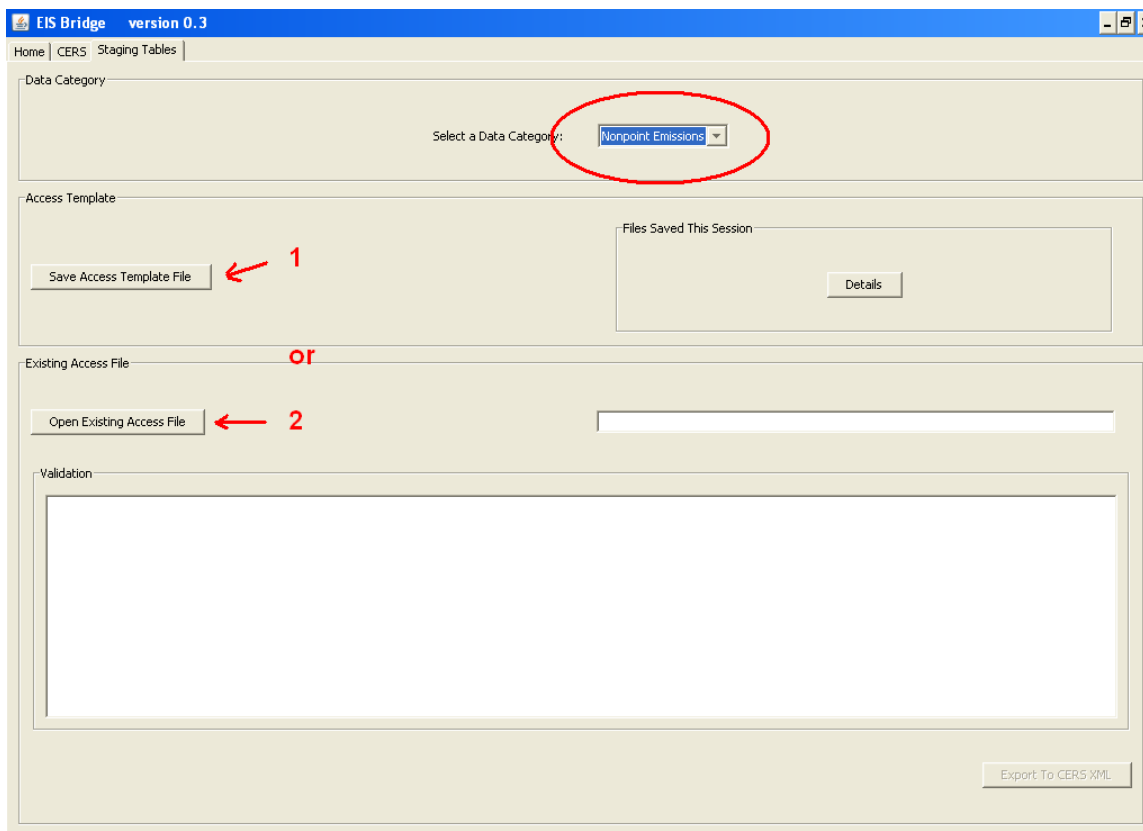
Select the Staging Tables tab. The first step is to select the data category you want to work with. Use the drop down list under the option entitled “Select a Data Category.” You have a choice of selecting from any of the data categories, but you may only select one at a time.

NOTE: Facility inventory and point emissions appear as separate options, even though they are contained within the same staging tables. This is due to the fact that a separate EIS CERS XML file can be created and validated for each one of the data categories.



Step 7:

Once you have selected a data category, in this case Nonpoint, you have two options for what to do next.



The first option is to download a staging table for the data category selected. You can do this by selecting the “Save Access Template File” button. Save the staging table to your desired location. You can change the Data Category and select the “Save Access Template File” to download staging tables for the other data categories.

The second option is to validate an existing staging table into which you’ve loaded data. You can do this by selecting the “Open Existing Access File” button. This feature will ensure that the data types and lengths within each table were not modified and that the tables can be used to create an EIS CERS XML file. It is important to note that the data category selected from the drop down list must match the data category of the access file you are trying to validate. If they do not match, you will receive a validation error.

EIS Staging Tables Q&A

Question 1: The EIS Staging Tables are not formatted according to the reporting instructions for each CERS component. Why are all the fields in the Staging Tables set to their maximum length of 255 characters?

Answer 1: One of the main concepts built into the EIS is that all QA is performed from within the system. This includes the enforcement of data types, formats, and data element lengths. The data types within the EIS Staging Tables are all set to Text, which have a maximum length of 255 characters. This was done to mitigate the risks associated with using Microsoft Access, such as the truncation of decimals.

Users should ensure that the data they load into the EIS Staging Tables conform to the reporting instructions for each data category. EIS will perform a series of QA checks to ensure that data elements are correctly formatted after data stored in the Staging Tables are transformed into EIS CERS XML and submitted.

PLEASE NOTE that you should not modify the data types within the EIS Staging Tables as this will cause a validation error and the EIS Bridge will not include this data in the EIS CERS XML file.

Question 2: The EIS Staging Tables did not come pre-populated with Primary Keys. Can I add my own primary keys to assist me when I import my data to the tables? Will I need to take these out before submitting them for conversion to XML? Will the EIS Bridge generate an EIS CERS XML file if the staging tables contain primary keys?

Answer 2: You are free to add primary keys to the EIS Staging Tables if it aids you in the data loading process. This means that you can designate existing staging columns as primary keys or add new columns for this purpose. You do not have to remove the primary keys in the Staging Tables in order to generate a CERS XML file.

PLEASE NOTE that the EIS Bridge will ignore any columns you add to the EIS Staging Tables. For example, if you add a new column titled, “Facility Identifier Primary” and designate it as a primary key, then any data entered in this column will be ignored by the EIS Bridge and will not be incorporated into the EIS CERS XML file.

Question 3: Section 6 of the NEIP clearly state that geographic coordinates are “required for every facility site in the EIS; they are optional for emission release points” (p. 6-40). Is this table used for geographic coordinates for both the facility site and the release point? If it is, does a blank data in the Release Point Identifier data element automatically assure that the LAT\LONG info is directed towards the facility site?



Answer 3: The same table is used for reporting geographic coordinates at the facility site level as well as the release point level. The requirement to report geographic coordinates at the facility site level is new to the EIS process. The description in the EIS Staging Tables attempts to indicate that the geographic coordinates in NIF format correspond to the release point level. You will have to load in the geographic coordinates for the facility site as new data.

To report facility site level geographic coordinates, you need to provide the following information:

- Facility Site ID
- Facility Site Program System Code
- Only one of the State and County FIPS/Tribal Code/State and Country Code
- All the geographic coordinate information

Since these are facility site geographic coordinates, no release point identifier is reported. The absence of the release point identifier indicates that the geographic coordinates are associated with the facility site level.

When release point geographic coordinates are reported, you need to provide the following information:

- Facility Site ID
- Facility Site Program System code
- Only one of the State and County FIPS/Tribal Code/State and Country Code
- Release point identifier
- All the geographic coordinate information

The inclusion of the release point identifier indicates that the geographic coordinates are associated with the release point, and not the facility site.

Question 4: In the past, NIF users submitted all data in their tables that replaced all data previously submitted. If we have to submit only changes in data, how should this be submitted via the staging table format supplied? For example, if only one or two of the tables had changed data, do we submit the entire set of tables as they are consolidated in the Access .mdb file?

Answer 4: The CERS provides the ability to report only data that has changed. You can do this by loading into the staging tables only the data you want to submit. However, you must ensure that all the requirements are met for the submittal data block as described in the reporting instructions for that specific data element. Once uploaded to the Bridge, an XML file will be generated containing only the data provided in the staging tables.

While you are encouraged to submit only changes to your emissions inventory data when making a resubmission, rest assured that the EIS still supports the submission of a complete emissions inventory data category. This may be helpful when correcting issues



with previously submitted data. In many instances, a new submission replaces previously submitted data for the same set of processes and pollutants.