

Emission Inventory System – Facility Inventory Course

Questions and Answers 3/7/2012

Facility Changes

What do we do if the facility changes owners/name (facility name)? **If the name of the facility changes, you may make the correction either in the Gateway or through a batch submittal. If there is a change in owners, and you are going to carry it in your inventory as a different facility with a different agency identifier, then you would want to change the Operating Status of the previous facility to PS and add the Operating Status Code Year. Then submit the facility under new ownership as a new facility. If you plan on continuing to use the same Agency Identifier, just update those fields which have changed.**

Some facilities are so rural, they don't have physical addresses. Should we use "N/A" and zip code "99999" the way that off-shore facilities are handled? I think we have entered the nearest road and or town in the past. Obviously we have the coordinates. **For rural facilities, use an address that describes its location, such as "3 mi So of Rte 70 on SR 1203". Nearest road or town is ok. The city and zip code can be for the nearest town.**

If state identifiers are corrected with the appropriate start and end dates, will the negative influences to CAMD and other linkages be addressed? Or should extra effort be directed towards trying to keep state identifiers consistent? **Adding an end date for an existing unit and then creating an entirely new unit creates the problem. Please continue use of the same EIS unit, but revise the state agency ID for that same EIS unit if you wish.**

How are duplicate records created during upload of xml files? What is the best way to avoid these? **Records with the same IDs will not be allowed by EIS. However, if you submit units and processes and release points with different IDs than you used in your last EIS update, EIS cannot tell that they are the same unit, process, or release point, and so a second copy of the same physical item is created, but with a different identifier.**

How are facility records preserved for continuity in EIS when a site changes company ownership? **You can store the old company name as an Alternative name in EIS if you wish.**

Can the actual shutdown date be used (say 6/1/2011) be used for a site or emission unit or does EIS require a shutdown date after the reporting period? **EIS handles shut downs through the Operating Status and the Operating Status Code Year. For example, if a facility shuts down during 2011 and you will have partial emissions to report for the period it did operated; you would change the Operating Status Code to "PS" with an Operating Status Code Year of 2012. The year represents 1/1/2012. With this change, any emissions reported for 2012 would be rejected.**

Emission Units

With the operating status of the emission unit, what should we do if a facility “removes boiler 1 and replaces with a different boiler that they want to identify as boil 1” **If you have a unit identifier of “BOIL1”, and that unit shuts down, and a new unit is now known as “BOIL1”, you would change the Operating Status of the older unit to “PS”, with a status Year. Then create a new unit, which could have “BOIL1” as its ID since that Unit ID is no longer attached to an active unit.**

Why isn’t the Unit Identifier Program System Code auto filled if you put it in at the beginning? **Unfortunately the staging tables and the Bridge Tool are very basic and do not have this type of intelligence built in.**

Emission Process

Please repeat where you can find the updated SCC codes? **The best place to find all up to date codes is on the EIS Gateway under Reference Data. These tables may be downloaded in .csv format which will open in Excel. We will also post Appendix 6 on the CHIEF website, but this option will be retired soon.**

Will EPA be changing a large number of SCC after the state’s have already collected emissions or will the upcoming SCC changes being announced going to be applied to emission inventories after 2011? **We will endeavor to not retire any SCC codes for point source that were active when you started your data collection on Jan 1, 2011. There are a few nonpoint SCCs planned for retirement, as part of plans under development to address overlapping reporting of prescribed fires.**

I have noticed that release point errors are often made because of transcription inconsistencies – I instead of 1; O instead of 0...and vice versa. **For IDs, EIS will see these as different state IDs, and will create a new release point (or unit, or process). However, if a letter O or letter I is entered as part of the numeric fields for height, diameter, temperature, etc, EIS should throw a critical error. We are not aware of any problem with those checks, but please contact us with specific instances if you see them.**

Release Point

How are stack vents from tanks handled with regard to velocity? **If they are coded as a stack release, you must provide a velocity.**

What do you use as the default fugitive release width, length, and angle, when they are not reported by a state? **EIS does not fill or store these values if not reported by the reporting agency. Downstream modeling applications handle these missing values as needed for their application.**

Does the velocity, flow and diameter check apply to fugitive releases? **No, this check applies to stacks only.**

Why not have stack temp acceptable values matched to SCC? What may be OK for a spray booth bent would be unreasonable for an incinerator stack. **We're not that smart yet to avoid having this create a large number of false critical errors. If you know the values that should apply within your agency we would encourage you to utilize them.**

Once you added these release points and not had similar number updated, how you get them removed if they are adding duplicates. **First, running your submission through the QA Environment will help in identifying problems before they are sent to EIS as a production submission. If you see that your feedback report reflects a large number of ADDS, you need to ask yourself:**

- **Have my identifiers changed;**
- **Have I introduced a new character into the identifier, such as adding the FIPS to the front of your ids which was not reflected in the current EIS IDs;**
- **Do you have a "O" when it should be a "0".**
- **Spot check some of the facilities in your submission with what is currently in EIS.**

EPA can assist you in investigating the problem.

Is there a comment field to note if a stack release point is not vertical or below roof line (i.e. Horizontal slanted or coming out the side of the building)? **All tables have comment fields that can be used to record additional information, but there are 5 release point type codes for stack releases, including horizontal, gooseneck, and two other non-vertical types.**

QA Checks

Will range checks remain warning check, or does EPA have plans to make these a critical check? **Range checks on emissions may be moved up to critical if we can identify acceptable ranges that will not cause false critical errors.**

Reports

It would be nice if we had a report that separated what is a true regulated point source site versus an exempt airport or railroad switchyard site. **While the existing reports do not provide a way to filter out the non-regulated sources, you can do that after you get the full report by excluding facilities that don't have any Agency ID.**

Protection Field

What is meant by Protected? Can states change those if they find errors? **A protected field cannot be changed by a new submission. Protection can prevent good data being overwritten by bad data. An example of a field which would be protected would be the latitude and longitude. If at any time an agency feels that the data they are trying to submit is better than the protected data, we can unlock the field and allow the new data to be submitted. An error on a protected field still allows all other data for that record to be submitted.**

Controls

Does the EIS still not allow more than one control measure that have the same control type code. For example one process may be associated with two fabric filters? **True, EIS still does not allow the same control measure code to be included more than once.**

Seasonal

Will EPA require the 5 month ozone season for NOx to be reported for 2011? **The AERR currently requires the reporting of 5 month ozone season.**

Airports

Last time (2008), I had a hard time matching the EIS facility site ID to the traditional airport ID (NATD LOCID or 5010 LOCID) such as RDU or CLT, etc. Can you do anything to carry through the traditional ID on every EIS table where there is a place for it as an alternative ID? EPA entered the NATD LOCID/5050 LOCID identifiers as "Alternative Identifier". **A search under "Facility Inventory and Point Emissions" for "RDU" retrieves Raleigh Durham International Airport. The Bridge Tool and the XML snapshot files cannot accommodate these alternative identifiers. They can be obtained by using one of the Facility Configuration reports.**

Any change this year of getting correct military airport activity data at the national level for each of the military airports? I have been able to get this in the past by finding the correct person at each airport except for the marines. They are uncooperative. EPA for 2008 put general aviation in military airports. This generally doesn't happen from what I have learned. **We've had difficulty getting better military airport data because of a lack of a national source and security concerns. With resource constraints, we do not envision improvement for the 2011 NEI. All of the 2008 NEI aircraft activity estimates came from available FAA databases, including any military airports in FAA's data.**

Submission

Could you provide an example for "Model" in the CER table? I always leave it blank in previous submittals. Is this a new requirement? **This is not a new requirement. If you have been able to submit state emissions with this field blank in the past, that will continue to be accepted. The webinar was in error, as this field is required only when EPA submits emissions.**

You mentioned that the EIS window opens on June 1 of this year. Does that apply to the Production Environment? Can I submit files to the QA environment before then? **The QA Environment is open almost always, and is open now. The Production Environment for 2011 submittals will open on June 1st.**

When does the data submitted to production get refreshed in the QA environment? **Data is never refreshed in QA. The QA environment is provided for you to test your submission against the same QA checks as the Production Environment, but without the data being stored in EIS. Submittals to the Production Environment will result in any data not rejected due to Critical errors being stored immediately. Aggregation summaries of Production data are refreshed overnight.**

If you already have emission data for a facility from another source, should we not submit on top of the other submission? How do we ensure that you don't end up with a duplicate report for the facility? **You submission is done under your Program System Code. Any other data source that EPA reports will have its own Program System Code. The goal is to have both emissions estimates reported to the same EIS Process ID. During the selection process, only one value per EIS Process ID and pollutant code can be chosen for inclusion in the published NEL.**

EIS

I have not yet created a login or password, to access EIS, is it too late? **It is never too late to register for the Gateway. Instructions can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/eis/index.html>**