

**STORET User Call
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2018
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM EST**

Call In Phone: 866 299 3188, Access code: 202 566 2514#
<http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/wqxqa/>

Next STORET Workgroup Meeting – February 22, 2018 at 12 p.m. EST

*There were approximately 55 participants.
Dwane Young Moderated today's call
Britt Dean Assisted with today's call*

Agenda:

1. Communicate STORET decommissioning date
2. Metals Workgroup
3. Creating CCB groups for taxa and characteristics
4. Data Discovery Tool
5. Water Quality Portal
6. Open Discussion

1. Communicate STORET decommissioning date

A statement was included in the meeting agenda. Dwane shared the statement with the workgroup and asked for feedback.

STORET Decommissioning

On prior STORET user calls, the topic of decommissioning the STORET Warehouse has been discussed. Currently, most of the STORET Warehouse functionality is duplicative of the Water Quality Portal. The STORET team feels that funds would be better utilized if they are allocated to develop tools for the Water Quality Portal or WQX. The Office of Water has approved the request and the STORET team is planning to complete this by the end of June 2018. The timeline is dependent on the amount of Warehouse functionality that is currently available in the Water Quality Portal. We are currently working with the Water Quality Portal team to address functionality and prioritize what needs to be completed in the next few months for decommissioning to be successful. We welcome any comments or feedback on this approach.

Water Quality Portal: <https://www.waterqualitydata.us/>

No feedback was provided and a few members noted the statement was good.

Dwane explained that in this case, STORET is truly is going away and will transition calling the data repository, WQX. EPA will still have the data stored in WQX. Data that are in the STORET Warehouse that are not under WQX Organization will still be available in the WQP. These are currently available in the WQP.

Legacy STORET data will still be available. It will likely be moved to the portal then decommissioned. The advanced query is operable. The simple query is not operable.

WQP Enhancements

The following things are on the priority list and are being worked on:

- Attachments - is on the portal priorities list. Jim is working on this for the blobs. We will use an agile approach. Jim noted it will be done before February.
- QC Data – Jim will have the intern work on this.
- Station summary web service or report – this is in the cue to develop
- Web services schema will change. In the portal there data profiles that define what datasets come back. EPA is sensitive to not changing these to avoid breaking applications. New data profiles will be created and old ones deprecated. The summary data will be brand new and its own functionality with its own data model with similar data elements.
- Contact information – this is part of the organization end point contact information part of the WQX model

2. Metals Workgroup –

The workgroup held their first call. The group was formed from members of nutrients workgroup who created best practices for sharing nutrients data. The metals workgroup is making recommendations to help make data more consistent. Working on the final list of recommendations. Dwane provided some highlights on what will come out of the recommendations document:

- Metal names – there will be a there will be a consistent list of recommended parameters to use
- Most common methods used for analyzing methods and provided a list of recommend methods based on them
- Sharing data – share the method code that was used, as opposed to using your own organization context
- Sample fractions. The ambiguity between total and unfiltered is not like it is with nutrients. If you always used total continue to use it instead of using sample fractions
- Filter size – new data element or an existing one? They concluded to use the existing data element for equipment comment

3. Creating CCB groups for taxa and characteristics

EPA is exploring the idea of creating a broader interest group to govern domain values such as those in WQX, i.e., characteristics. The group would cover WQX, ATAINS and

possibly ICIS. Requests for domain value additions will not have a quick turnaround time. They will need to go through the CCB first. Dwane asked the group for feedback on how to get this group together.

Chris Mickel agreed this is a good idea and stressed the need for authoritative body to govern taxonomic data. Dwane explained that EPA has had discussions with the team at USGS on how they handle taxonomic data. They use taxonomy system is called Biodata and have an in-house taxonomist. Biodata is a good mechanism for tracking terms and tracks them over time.

The following people volunteered to be part of the Domain CCB:

- Cathy Anderson
- Chris Neumiller

More information on the Domain CCB group will be available as it becomes available.

4. Data Discovery Tool

- The Data Discovery Tool is written with open source code and there are people who can code in R. Users can easily add functionality to the tool. A suite of tools was built by TetraTech in Region 8 for the tribes. Dwane reviewed some of the new functionality:
 - Ability to Save dataset and open it back up without going back to download from portal
 - Ability to save filter and load back in
 - Non detects defaults to a better option rather than throwing them away
 - Enhanced QAQC functionality with decision tree excel spreadsheet to identify parameters with automatic checks and changes the unit conversions that are all saved into a knowledge base for future analysis.
 - New graphics for distribution.

A duplicate data filter is already in there but it has some limitations. It only looks into a single organization. Most duplicates are across organization.

Kerry Kuntz demonstrated the new graphics she added into the Data Discovery tool. She used GGPlot, a package in R to visualize large amounts of data.

Next steps:

Dwane will evaluate Kerry's addition and may incorporate it in the next release with the TetraTech release.

5. Water Quality Portal

- a. Notification of the deprecation of the current phys/chem format on the portal website. We plan on creating a new profile with the same concept of the physical/chemical metadata but the speciation element will be fixed.

- b. Share detection limit order with the user community – There have be questions about the order detection quantitation limits are included in the portal download. In the portal download we try to keep a rule of having one result on one line and so the challenge detection limits is that the one to many relationships between results and detection limits. EPA had to come up with a set of rules so if there is more than one detection limit we know which one to use. The lower the number that is the one that shows in the profile. A chemist will help EPA think this through.

No one provided feedback. Dwane noted this will be put on the next call and would like feedback and or questions on the next call.

The portal is now supported by:

- Query HUC12 service – This automatically works in the data discovery tool; also available through web services and now in the WQP.
- Demonstrate the new WQP Station search service – can enter a site name or id and it will search on it (primary site id)

6. Open Discussion

Christie Miller asked how to manage nano particle data. Washington State they are starting environmental samples with nano particle data. Dwane noted this may be discussed on future call as Christie works through that.