

## Data Quality Record for Long-Term Performance Goals

**Long-Term Performance Goal Text:** By September 30, 2026, automate the major EPA permitting programs.

**Corresponding Annual Performance Goal:** Annual percentage of EPA permitting processes automated.

**Goal Number/Objective:** Cross-Agency Strategy 3

**NPM Lead:** Office of the Administrator (OA), Office of Policy (OP), Office of Federal Activities (OFA)

### 1a. Purpose of Long-Term Performance Goal:

This long-term performance goal (LTPG) tracks the Agency's progress towards bringing EPA into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by transitioning EPA's major permitting programs from paper processes to electronic processes. EPA will advance the paperless transformation through the automation of permit application, review, and issuance processes for EPA's permitting programs. Automation of the permitting processes will reduce processing time on issuing permits, decrease the time between receiving monitoring data and engaging in enforcement actions, and foster transparency by allowing communities to search, track, and access permitting actions easily. Further, permit automation will enable the integration of climate change and environmental justice considerations into permit processes and ensure that they are addressed within the terms and conditions of the permit. For the regulated community, permit automation will allow for a simplified, streamlined, and transparent permitting process which will result in a time and costs savings.

### 1b. Performance Measure Term Definitions:

Major Permitting Programs: Agencies delegated, authorized, or approved to issue permits under the following environmental permit programs: Clean Air Act New Source Review (NSR) and Title V, Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Subtitle C), and Safe Drinking Water Act Underground Injection Control (UIC).

Automated: For the purposes of this initiative, permit automation refers to EPA-led permitting efforts and EPA oversight of state, tribal, or local permitting efforts where the internal or customer-facing components of the permitting processes include technical systems that require limited staff engagement while receiving permit applications from customers (*e.g.*, permit form support and quality checks as data are entered to the extent possible) or during the administrative/non-technical aspects of the EPA permit review or oversight process (*e.g.*, EPA staff is not required to move a permit from one process step to another, ability to query internal systems for metrics). There is not an expectation that this would include automation in places where staff expertise is required at a decisional point, but that once that decision is made the next person in the process is alerted and, ideally, permittees are able to see that their permit is moving through the internal EPA system.

### 1c. Unit of Measure:

Percentage

**2a. Data Source:**

- The major permitting programs at EPA are the primary sources of data.
- OP, in coordination with the major permitting programs at EPA, will be reporting data to the system.
- The frequency of primary data collection will be quarterly.
- The frequency and timing at which primary data will be reported is quarterly.

**2b. Data needed for interpretation of (calculated) Performance Result:**

- In FY 2022, EPA collaborated with the Agency's major permitting programs and identified 13 processes to be automated.
- The baseline is zero as of FY 2021.

**3. Calculation Methodology:**

The number of processes automated (out of the 13 identified) divided by 13.

**4. Quality Assurance/Quality Controls:**

The major permitting programs will be providing information on at least a quarterly basis. OFA is depending upon the major permitting programs to ensure the information provided is accurate.

**5. Data Limitations/Qualifications:**

OFA is relying on the major permitting programs to make decisions about work performed within each fiscal year and provide accurate information to be reported. OFA is unable to assign and require work to be done, nor perform in-depth QA/QC, as it does not play a role in how the major permitting programs execute their programs.

**6. Technical Contact:**

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**7. Certification Statement/Signature:**

**I certify the information in this DQR is complete and accurate.**

**DAA Signature** Original signed by Wesley Carpenter **Date** 5/3/2024