EPA Data Governance Council

Meeting Summary – November 21, 2022

General Updates

- The Chief Data Officer (CDO) has been briefing Agency management on the new Data Officer position. The PARS language for the position is close to finalized. There are ongoing discussions regarding flexibility in the position responsibilities as well as the creation of a standard position description to ensure regional Data Officer positions are consistent.
- The Communications Subcommittee is creating an inventory of the internet and intranet locations where Agency data is published.
- The Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building (ACDEB) has released its Year 2 Report which provides recommendations for creating secure federal data services.

Facilities Governance Subcommittee

- Ana Greene provided a presentation on EPA Regulated Facilities Options Evaluation and Recommendations.
- Regulated facility data allows for a comprehensive view of environmental conditions at a location or company.
- Improving enterprise regulated facility data management particularly benefits programs that need to look across regulated media or those that rely on information collected by other programs. It will also benefit other programs through increased data quality through feedback mechanisms and decreased cross-Agency duplication of effort.
- The Regulated Facility Data Business Needs Project purpose was to review regulated facility data management at EPA.
  - Phase 1 of the project was completed in the summer of 2020 and used surveys and interviews to identify high level regulated facility business needs at EPA. The Phase 1 Report defines the top 6 facility data needs.
  - Phase 2 of the project was completed by a workgroup that evaluated options and developed recommendations for facility data management at EPA based on the needs identified in Phase 1. The workgroup's primary recommendation is to establish a governance structure that includes stakeholders from across the regulated facility data lifecycle, participants from OMS, program offices, regions, states and tribes and has executive-level involvement.
- A Regulated Facility Governance group will be created to steer principles, policy, business process and technical solutions for implementing interoperable regulated facility data systems.
  - A group has been established to review the EPA Regulated Facility Data Governance Body Charter.

Office of Research and Development (ORD) Data Management

- Alex Montilla provided a presentation on the ORD Data Management Strategy.
- ORD's goal is to have a world class data management system that provides safe and organized storage of ORD's scientific data, easy access to this data and advanced analytical tools to assist users in protecting human health and the environment.
- ORD's data management strategy focuses on increasing awareness of what data is available and in what locations and enhancing access to data and bolstering analytics.
- Organization systems and tools that are key to meeting ORD's vision include a file system model, data catalog and metadata management strategy.
- Benefits of the data management strategy include the ability to reuse existing data and the ability to establish a Data as a Service offering.

Data Skills Training Subcommittee Update

- Janet Kremer discussed the Data Skills Training Strategy and Implementation Plan draft.
- In 2023, the subcommittee will focus on improving data literacy for all EPA staff, while building professional development opportunities for staff who are at the beginning of their data literacy journey and do not work in data related fields.
- The subcommittee is conducting interviews and surveys to define skill expectations, identify existing training courses and gaps and develop the final training plan.

Alation Update

- Janet Kremer provided an update on the implementation of Alation.
- Alation is currently in the Data Management and Analysis Platform's (DMAP) sandbox environment.
- They are currently migrating legacy EDG, non-geo metadata records into Alation to investigate new capabilities.
- In January, 2023, four use cases will kick off to serve as early adopters and explore Alation's solutions.