

ECHO Effluent Charts Tutorial - Accessible Instructions

Introduction/Brief Overview

ECHO Effluent Charts present data in a visual format accompanied by raw data, as a comma-separated variable (CSV) file that can be opened in Microsoft Excel or other spreadsheet software.

This tutorial demonstrates how to access and use the Effluent Charts feature on the ECHO website. Effluent Charts present dynamic graphs and tables of pollutant data over time. The information includes permitted effluent limits, releases, and violations for Clean Water Act wastewater discharge permits issued under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES.

Accessing Effluent Charts

Begin on the ECHO Home page at <https://echo.epa.gov>. You can access Effluent Charts in several different ways. To examine data for a single facility, start by performing a single facility search from the ECHO Home page using the facility's permit ID. To conduct a single facility search, use the Tab key to navigate to the Explore Facilities tile and press Enter. Using the Tab key, navigate to the Single Facility Search text box and enter a facility ID, then press Enter. To search for regulated facilities based on broader criteria, such as a geographic location or compliance status, you can use the Water Facility Search. Please access the ECHO Facility Search tutorial to learn how to perform a detailed facility search. To access the ECHO Tutorials page, use the Tab key to navigate to the "Tutorial" hyperlink and press Enter.

After entering a Permit ID on the ECHO Home page or performing a Water Facility Search, ECHO presents results on the Facility Search Results page. The Reports column in the results table displays icons that link to all of the facility's available reports. The "E" icon will open the facility's Effluent Charts in a new tab. You can also click the "C" icon to view the Detailed Facility Report, which provides links to the Effluent Charts when the facility has pollutant violations under the Clean Water Act. Let's use the "E" icon to directly access the Effluent Charts; using the Tab key, navigate to the "View effluent chart(s)" E icon and press Enter.

Summary Grid

The Effluent Charts Summary Grid contains identifying information about the facility and a grid that displays a snapshot of compliance for each pollutant and outfall. To download Summary Grid data, use the Tab key to navigate to the "Download Summary Data" hyperlink, then press

Enter. In the data download, you can review the current violation status or overall violation status for specific outfalls and pollutants.

Charts

The individual charts display pollutant data over time. To download all effluent chart data within the default date range (that is, the latest 13 quarters of available data), use the Tab key to navigate to the “Download All Data” hyperlink, then press Enter. In the downloaded spreadsheet file, you can view all of the effluent measurements, permitted limits, and effluent violations for the given dates, for a single permit, discharge point, parameter, monitoring location, and sampling period. The data show different violation data for ICIS-NPDES permits, reflecting the different information stored about violations in those systems.

To better understand codes and information within the Effluent Chart data, use the Effluent Chart Data Dictionary. To access the Effluent Chart Data Dictionary from the Effluent Charts page, use the Tab key to navigate to the “Help” hyperlink and press Enter. From the Effluent Charts Help page, use the Tab key to navigate to the “Data Dictionary” hyperlink and press Enter. Table 2: Effluent Charts Data Download provides the download column headers, field names, and description for all fields within the data download.

To download a bulk set of Discharge Monitoring Report data for all Clean Water Act discharging facilities, access the Data Downloads page, found under the “Advanced Tools” menu; using the Tab key, navigate to the Data Downloads menu item and press Enter. On the Data Downloads page, you will find national DMR data sets for all permitted facilities, organized by year.

You can also report a data error for individual charts. If you suspect an error in the data, first use the Tab key to navigate to the “Report an Error” hyperlink, then press Enter. Links to report errors will now display above each effluent chart and data table. The error reporting forms are demonstrated in the ECHO tutorial on Facility-level Enforcement & Compliance Data and Error Reporting, available on the ECHO Tutorials page.

Thank you for your interest in using the ECHO Effluent Charts feature!