

Transcript for ECHO Enforcement Case Search Tutorial with Accessible Instructions

This tutorial narration is spoken over a video recording capturing movement on-screen. Actions are described within brackets.

Introduction

[Begin on the ECHO home page, <https://echo.epa.gov/> in an Internet browser].

In this brief demonstration, we will show you how to search for EPA civil and criminal enforcement cases and view case information using the ECHO website. You'll learn how to customize and refine your search, understand the search results, and view more detailed information on enforcement case reports.

ECHO provides information about formal administrative and judicial enforcement actions entered into EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System and concluded criminal enforcement cases entered into EPA's Summary of Criminal Prosecutions database. Data are refreshed weekly from the source databases. More information about the data can be found on the Help tab of the ECHO home page. [Use the Tab key to navigate to the "Help" tab and press Enter].

You can run an EPA Enforcement Case Search directly from the home page by selecting the "Find EPA Cases" tab. [Using the Tab key, navigate to the "Find EPA Cases" tab and press Enter].

If you know the specific Case Name or Case Number that you are interested in, you can select either "EPA Case Name" or "EPA Case Number" above the search box and type in your search term [Using the Tab key, navigate to the "EPA Case Name" or the "EPA Case Number" tab and press Enter]. As a note, the quick search defaults to search for cases led by the U.S. EPA. To search by other criteria, access the full Enforcement Case Search form by selecting "More Search Options." [Using the Tab key, navigate to the "More Search Options" tab and press Enter].

Case Search Example

[On Enforcement Case Search (<https://echo.epa.gov/facilities/enforcement-case-search>)].

From the Enforcement Case Search page, you can search for enforcement case information using several criteria. Criteria are organized into five sections: Case Identifiers, Facility Locations, Case Attributes, Case Milestones and Dates, and Enforcement Case Outcomes and Settlements. The Case Identifiers section is expanded when you come to this page. You can expand or collapse sections by selecting the section header or by selecting "Expand All". [Using the Tab key, navigate to "Expand All" and press Enter].

In the Case Identifiers section, you may search for enforcement actions based on data such as Case Type, Case Category, the lead agency, the Name of the case, the Case ID or facility ID, and

industry classification [*Use the Tab key to navigate to the search option of choice and press Enter to make or change a selection*].

By default, the Case Type is set to “Any” to search for both civil and criminal enforcement cases

Civil actions are enforcement actions in response to a violation of environmental regulations. These may be actions taken by U.S. EPA or formal lawsuits filed by the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of EPA, or a state agency under its own authority. Note that state-led cases are limited to those related to Clean Air Act (CAA) stationary sources and Clean Water Act (CWA) dischargers and may not offer the amount of information available for EPA-led cases. A more detailed caveat can be viewed by clicking the “I” icon [*Use the Tab key to navigate to the “I” icon and press Enter*].

Criminal actions are usually reserved for the most serious violations, those that are willfully, or knowingly committed. A court conviction of a criminal case may result in fines or imprisonment.

Not all search criteria apply to both civil and criminal case types. If you select one case type, the search form will update to show or hide search criteria. Fewer search criteria are available for criminal cases [*To change the case type, use the Tab key to navigate to the “Civil” or “Criminal” radio buttons and press Enter*].

For more information on the difference between civil and criminal enforcement cases or questions about any of the search criteria, please visit the Enforcement Case Search Help via the help button at the top of the page or the “?” symbol in each section [*Use the Tab key, navigate to the “Select for help” link and press Enter*].

[*Press Shift and the down arrow at the same time to scroll to the “Facility Locations” section*]. The next section, Facility Locations, allows you to search by the geographic location of the facilities associated with enforcement actions.

[*Press Shift and the down arrow at the same time to scroll to the “Case Attributes” section*]. The Case Attributes section allows you to search by characteristics such as the law and sections cited in a case, case status, and keywords in the case summary.

[*Press Shift and the down arrow at the same time to scroll down to “Case Milestones and Dates”*]. The Case Milestones and Dates section allows you to search by case activities during a particular date range. This searches for milestones across the lifetime of a case, as opposed to searching for the current case status from the Case Attributes section.

[*Press Shift and the down arrow at the same time to scroll down to “Enforcement Case Outcomes/Settlements” section*]. The Enforcement Case Outcomes/Settlements section allows you to search by the types of actions and penalty amounts resulting from the case.

[*Press Shift and the up arrow at the same time to scroll to the “Case Milestones and Dates” section*].

In this example, let’s search for any enforcement cases led by the U.S. EPA in federal fiscal year 2018. By default, “Federal EPA” case lead is selected.

From the Case Milestones and Dates section, let's select "FY 2018" from the Fiscal Year dropdown. *[Using the Tab key, navigate to Fiscal Year dropdown under "Case Milestones and Dates" and press Enter. Using your arrow keys, navigate to "FY2018" and press Enter]*. A federal fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year. In this example, the "federal fiscal year 2018" is October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.

With our selected search criteria, we expect this search to return EPA-led civil or criminal cases that had milestone events during Fiscal Year 2018.

ECHO provides two formats to view search results.

The Interactive Map view presents the search results in a data table and a map showing the locations of facilities associated with the enforcement cases. The table and map are dynamically linked to provide additional data exploration capabilities.

The Data Table view does not display a map of the facility locations associated with enforcement cases but allows you to manipulate and view case records through the data table

Let's view the data using the interactive map view. *[Using the Tab key, navigate to the "Interactive Map" button and press Enter or navigate to the "Search" button and press Enter]*.

The results page presents the search results on a map and a table. Our search criteria are listed on the Current Search panel. This search returned over 3,000 enforcement cases.

In the interactive map view, when a search returns more than 500 enforcement cases, the locations of the facilities associated with enforcement cases are grouped into clusters and the number of enforcement cases included in each cluster is shown. Clusters are pre-established within ECHO and correlate to specific geographic areas, such as zip codes, counties, or states.

Here, we can see that the results are grouped by state in the table and shown as green clusters on the map. If you want to focus on one of these areas, you can click it on the table to refine your search *[Using the Tab key, navigate to the table and a specific row, and press Enter]*.

You can also select additional search criteria for Media Program Identifiers or Case Attributes directly on this page.

Let's narrow down our search to look only at cases related to the Clean Air Act. *[Using the Tab key, navigate to the "Additional Search Criteria" section and the value "Air (CAA)." Press Enter to select this option.]*. The map and data table will update to reflect this change. Now that we have fewer than 500 search results, the map and data table display individual cases.

One of the most useful features of the results page is the ability to customize columns *[Using the Tab key, navigate to the Customize Columns button and press Enter]*. You can add or remove data fields to make the results more relevant to your needs. Let's add Case Lead to our table *[Using the Tab key, navigate to "Case Lead" and press Enter. Then using the Tab key, navigate to "Update Columns" and press Enter]*.

If you want to save the results from this search, you can use one of the download buttons above the data table. You can download a CSV file *[Using the Tab key, navigate to the "Quick CSV*

Download” and press Enter], .or you can specify another file type by selecting “Download Data.”

Individual case data are limited to 100,000 or fewer results and Excel file format is limited to 10,000 or fewer results.

Once you have selected the data and format that you want, select “Download Data.” *[Use the Tab key to navigate to “Download Data”, select a Format using the arrow keys, and press Enter].*

Civil Report Examples

To find more information about a specific case, you can select the row in the data table to view the “Case Summary,” which shows basic information about the case, such as the case name, the law cited, and the case status. *[Using the Tab key, navigate to any row in the data table and press Enter].*

Detailed information about the case is available in the Case Report. To access this report, select the hyperlinked Case Identifier in the results table or “More Case Details” in the Case Summary *[Using the tab key, navigate to the hyperlinked Case Identifier and press Enter].* ECHO provides separate reports for Civil and Criminal cases. Let’s first view an example of a Civil Case Report by selecting the hyperlinked Case Identifier. *[Using the Tab key, navigate to the first cell in the first row, “Case Identifier” and press Enter].*

The report presents information in two sections. The first section provides case-level information about the nature and status of the case: the what, who, when, and where details of the enforcement action. Note that the report provides a summary of information about the enforcement action, but it does not include full text of the actual order or settlement document(s).

[Using the tab key, navigate to the “Civil Enforcement Case” header and press Enter to collapse the section].

The second section of the report provides Final Order-level information. This section provides detailed information about the outcome or results of the case. Note that an enforcement action may result in multiple final orders, such as when a judicial action involves multiple defendants. To read more about the Civil Enforcement Case Report, click on the “Help” button at the top of the report *[Use the Tab key to navigate to the “Help” button and press Enter].*

Criminal Report Example

[Using the Tab key, navigate to the search results page and press Enter].

Let’s go back to the search results to identify a criminal case. From the Additional Search Criteria section, uncheck the “Civil Cases” checkbox to modify the results so that only Criminal cases are displayed. *[Using the Tab key, navigate to “Civil Cases” and press Enter to deselect].*

The search now returns around 10 facilities. From the map, we can select a map pin to open a map popup for the criminal enforcement action. The map popup provides links to all related case

reports for that facility or defendant. [*Using the Tab key, navigate to a map popup and press Enter to open the popup*].

Let's look at an example of a Criminal Enforcement Case Report. [*Using the Tab key, navigate to the hyperlinked case name within the map popup and press Enter. Alternatively, navigate to the data table and select the first cell in any row, "Case Identifier," and press Enter.*]. The case report for criminal cases is different than those for civil cases.

This report is divided into five sections: Basic Information, Defendants, Case Summary, Case Details, and Locations. For more information about the Criminal Enforcement Case Report, click on the "Help" link at the top right of the page [*Use the Tab key to navigate to the "Help" link and press Enter*].

Conclusion

During this demonstration, we reviewed the ECHO Enforcement Case Search and the two types of Enforcement Case Reports. We encourage you to use this tool to find and review EPA enforcement case information.

Please visit the Help pages for guidance on how to use the enforcement case search or other ECHO features. There are help links available at the top of most ECHO pages [*Use the Tab key to navigate to the Help link and press Enter*]. If you have a question that is not answered by the help documentation, you can also use the "Contact Us" link to submit a question [*Use the Tab key to navigate to the "Contact Us" link and press Enter*].