ECHO Web Site Modernization

2013 and Beyond
Introduction

• Project goal
  Modernize an aging data system to take advantage of new technologies that offer more flexibility and opportunities for enhancement.

• Purpose of briefing
  Share plans for ECHO website modernization and describe how modernization affects popular features.
Background - ECHO Through the Years

• Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) launched in 2002.
• Steadily enhanced to meet user needs, including improved search results, integrated water quality and pollutant loading data, and more.
• 2011- drinking water data added; 2012: CWA state comparative map and dashboard; 2013: new CAA, CWA, RCRA state comparative maps and dashboards.

• Use has increased steadily over the years, providing answers to 2 million queries per year regarding environmental compliance and enforcement data.
• President Obama cited ECHO in 2011 as a model for transparency for other federal agencies to follow.
Why Modernize?

• Offer new or improved ECHO features that are not possible with our current older system.
  – Quicker data refreshes
  – Improved ability to query and use data
  – Future enhancements like customized alerts, mobile apps, machine-readable data/web services, etc.

• New system allows EPA to more easily offer such future transparency features as:
  – Integration of new data
  – Enhanced mapping
  – Better drinking water health data
  – Mobile apps
Why Modernize? continued

- ECHO’s popularity has resulted in helpful user feedback that will be easier to implement with modern system.
- Many features have been added to ECHO over the years, and a redesign will improve navigation.
- Helps Agency meet requirements of transparency-related executive orders.
- Current data system is operating at risk, as it is based on old technologies; must reprogram website to work with new system.
Summary of Current Plans

• Highest 2013 priority is replacement of existing ECHO website with modernized ECHO site.
  – Redesign site and launch “priority” features.
  – New projects/enhancements must remain on hold while ECHO modernized.
  – Web address (URL) will change.
• Phase in remaining features during 2014.
• Build new capabilities in 2015.
Schedule: September 30, 2013

Focus of September launch:

- Redesign
  - Enhance transparency through reorganization/better navigation
  - Ability to view on mobile devices
  - Bring state comparative maps/dashboards into new website design

- Multimedia Facility Search
  - Allows access to all ECHO facility data
  - Includes all associated features:
    - Summary search results and download
    - Detailed Facility Report
    - Error reporting and user support
Schedule: 2014 and Beyond

• On October 1, many features will be temporarily unavailable, but will be added incrementally to modernized ECHO.

• Single-media facility search options released as finished throughout 2014, followed by other features.

• 2015: goal is to begin work on new tools/data.
Features to be Phased in after Sept.30

- Drinking water (Safe Drinking Water Act) system search
- Clean Water Act (CWA) facility search, effluent charts, and water quality data
  - Popular CWA Discharge Monitoring Report Pollutant Loading Tool will remain available while new CWA search is built.
  - New CWA search will include closer pollutant loading data integration.
- EPA Enforcement Cases Search and case report
- Hazardous Waste (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) facility search
- Clean Air Act facility and pollutant search
- Some specialized mapping options
  - EPA and State Annual Enforcement Actions Map
  - ECHO map widget
Participation

- Small group of external website users commented on proposed home page design.
  - Commenters included state and EPA contacts, as well as a few members of the general public.
  - Many comments incorporated, and others recorded for consideration during programming.
- Comment during and after this webinar.
- Usability testing late summer.
- Subscribe to ECHO News for updates (http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/signup.html).
• Website tasks organized into four key areas
• Focus has been on design – wording may change
• Moving to latest EPA web template
Sections of search form expand and collapse.

Selected search criteria displayed on right side.

This is a draft - changes may be made during programming.
Options available to hide map, data table, and/or right side bar.

Options available to change search criteria from this page.

This is a draft - changes may be made during programming.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More frequent data updates (currently monthly)</td>
<td>Weekly: 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easier to use/better organization/simpler navigation</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street address search</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow query modification directly on search results screen</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closer integration of enforcement/compliance data with pollutant loading data</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Options to display more than five years of data</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide links to/information from documents (such as inspection reports, enforcement actions, etc.)</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More data on “non-standard” Clean Water Act facilities (such as animal feeding operations)</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More powerful, customizable mapping capabilities</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

• ECHO Modernization offers a more efficient, flexible system – opening up greater possibilities for future enhancements.

• 2013 and 2014 focus is largely on replacing existing products, but will include immediate improvements:
  – More frequent data refreshes
  – Improved website navigation and mapping
  – Viewing on mobile devices.

• Additional improvements, like registering for specific data alerts and providing web services, will be a focus of 2015.
Feedback?

- Contact ECHO Support
  (http://echo.epa.gov/contact)