

STORET – Supporting the Business of Environmental Monitoring

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Cary McElhinney is employed as an environmental protection specialist at the US Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds. Cary is responsible for the development and support of software and database products to meet water quality monitoring and reporting needs.

Abstract

In 1999, the Office of Water released into production a new and re-engineered STORET system. This system replaced the mainframe system operated and maintained by EPA up until 1998. The new STORET has the ability to store water, sediment, and tissue chemistry data as well as biological community and habitat assessment information. It greatly increases the data generators' ability to document their monitoring data. For the first time, the entire monitoring process beginning with the collection of a sample, equipment used during collection, the sample container material, field preservation, sample handling and storage, and laboratory operations can be documented permitting a full description of the business of environmental monitoring. This increased level of documentation enables the sharing of data with confidence. The new STORET system relies on the data generators operating a local version of STORET and periodically uploading a copy of their system to EPA for inclusion into a central web-enabled warehouse. This presentation will review the development and implementation of new data input packages that are being utilized to support the increased use of STORET in water quality monitoring.