

Exchanging Ambient Water Quality Data: A New Jersey Perspective on Transitioning from STORET to WQX

Paul Morton

NJDEP Water Monitoring and Standards, Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring

USEPA's STORET data system has been used by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for managing ambient water quality monitoring data since the 1970s. However, use of STORET has been mainly by federal and state agencies, but increasing need to maximize the use of data collected by all organizations (including external government, county, local, volunteer and academic organizations) for the state's Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report (305(b) report and 303(d) list). Up until this time, there has not been an effective way for each of these groups to exchange data for environmental planning, permitting and decision making tasks.

With the forthcoming switch from STORET to the Water Quality Exchange (WQX), NJDEP has a need to find a new data management solution. Using funds from a National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) grant, NJDEP has embarked on a project to implement a data integration and exchange system between federal, state, county, local, academic and volunteer organizations. This new system is being built using EPA's WQX schema as the basis for the data exchange.

There is also interest among a growing number of data consumers in more general information on monitoring activities in New Jersey: the who, what, where, when and why of monitoring. By working with the NJ Water Monitoring Coordination Council, NJDEP hopes to develop spatial and text based tools to provide this information to interested organizations and individuals

This presentation will focus on the progress to date with New Jersey's Ambient Water Quality Exchange.

Keywords: data, exchange, STORET, WQX