

Facility-ID Flow Implementation Guide

The Facility-ID flow allows partners to share data with EPA's Facility Registry System (FRS) database, which stores core facility information from a range of environmental programs. Facility data are part of most regulatory programs, and are key to connecting the multiple "program interests" that are common to a facility.

BENEFITS

Consistent schema and data standards allow automated integration and access by multiple programs and applications

Facility-ID supports public data access sites that integrate data to provide a place-based view of activities across environmental media

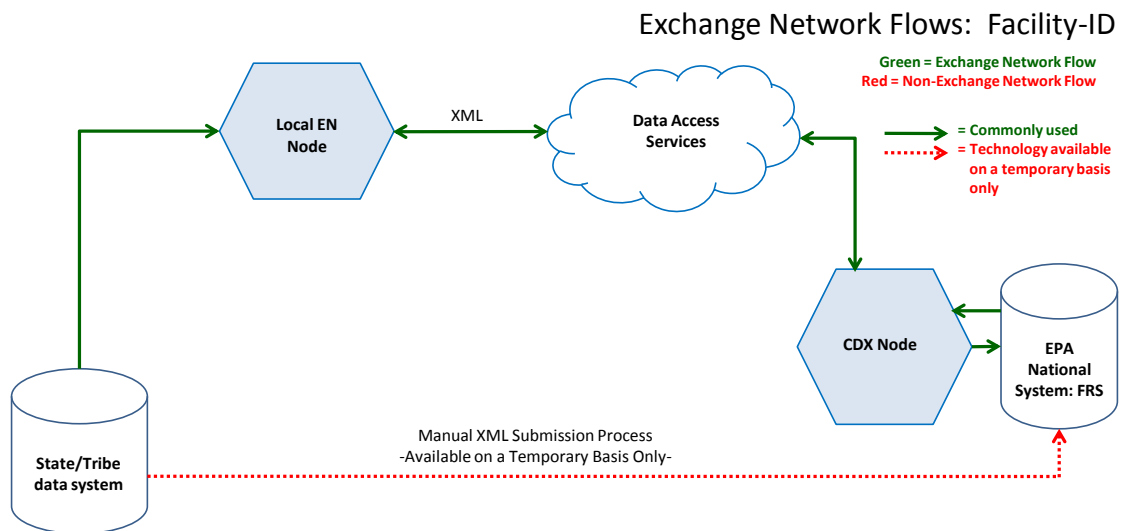
New features in Facility-ID 3.0 enhance users' ability to share and integrate data

Practical Implementation Advice

- Version 3.0 of the Facility Identification (Facility-ID) data exchange is now in production. States and tribes not already flowing Facility data should implement this new version of the data exchange. Network partners that are currently using version 2.3 of the Facility-ID exchange should plan to migrate to version 3.0.
- Any partner using the one of the freely available open-source Node products (OpenNode2 or the EN Node) should make use of available Facility-ID Node plug-ins.
- The Facility-ID flow makes sense for states and tribes that have integrated facility management systems or that are considering building an integrated system (Facility-ID tools can help with integration). Implementing the Facility-ID flow will also allow partners to use data from EPA's forthcoming greenhouse gas reporting system.
- Partners that don't have integrated facility management systems (and don't have plans for one) may want to consult with EPA about whether they should share Facility data.
- Partners should execute a Trading Partner Agreement with EPA to establish the terms under which EPA will access facility data through data access services (i.e. a scheduled Solicit).

Facility-ID Data Flow Options

The graphic below shows the current options for flowing data. Exchange Network (EN) flow options are shown in green and non-EN options are shown in red. (Terms are explained in Attachment I).



EXCHANGE NETWORK (EN) OPTIONS:

- Make facility data available in XML format through data access services using a local EN Node.

NON-EXCHANGE NETWORK OPTIONS:

- There are no "routine" non-EN flow pathways, but partners can share XML files directly with FRS on a temporary basis while they develop processes for sharing via the EN.

Summary of Current Practice

Facility-ID is one of the most widely implemented National System Flows among Exchange Network partners. U.S. EPA's Facility Registry System (FRS) allows manual submission of XML files on a temporary basis while partners work to fully implement the Exchange Network data flow.

Facility-ID Flow Status and Milestones

Version 3.0 of the Facility-ID flow is fully "network ready" and in production. The Exchange Network encourages partners to execute Trading Partner Agreements (TPAs) with EPA that define expectations around details such as the frequency of data exchange. A model TPA is available on the Facility-ID page of the Exchange Network website and EPA is currently working to update its language.

The table below shows institutional responsibilities and target completion dates for EPA activities.

Criteria:	Status	Actions	Primary Responsibility	Completion Period
Automation Ready	Done			
Solutions for all partners	Done			
Access to transaction status	Done			
Accessible and stable flow documentation	Done			
Specifications for Data Access Services	Done			
Clear path to eliminate alternatives	N/A			

Attachment 1: Terms

Node: A partner's point of presence on the EN consisting of a server (hardware and software) enabled with web services that allow partners to automatically provide and receive information via the Network and to publish data for use by other EN partners.

EN Client: A stand-alone application (i.e., software code) that lets partners share data, request data, and receive results from an EN request. Clients differ from nodes in that they cannot respond to queries from other nodes and so cannot publish data. Clients also need more manual (vs. automated) steps, for example, to extract data and generate and review reports before submission.

CDX: EPA's Central Data Exchange. It serves as EPA's centralized electronic report receiving system. It receives data from partners and directs the data to EPA's program-specific National Systems (e.g., AQS, WQX, etc.).

CDX Node: CDX Node is EPA's node on the EN, allowing EPA to receive, send, and provide information via the Network. CDX Node can also publish EPA data for use by other EN partners.

CDX EN Web Clients:

- **Generic:** A client at CDX which receives XML-based data via standard web browsers for many different flows using Exchange Network protocols.
- **Program-Specific:** A client customized for a single National System with an intuitive user interface specific to the business process. Implemented at CDX, the client receives program-specific data in XML format via standard web browsers using Exchange Network protocols (e.g., for authorization and authentication, etc.)

CDX Web (non-EN) Application: A legacy CDX application that receives data (flat file or XML format) via standard web browsers. CDX Web applications are not consistent with EN protocols (e.g., they have a separate authentication and authorization service from the EN) and typically involve more manual steps than a node-to-node exchange of data.

Data Access Services: Using web services to make data available to Network users by querying nodes and returning environmental data in the form of XML documents. Published data can be accessed using a node or clients. Published data can be used in a number of ways, such as populating Web pages, synchronizing data between sites, viewing data in a Web service client, or building new sources of data into an integrated application.

Direct User: A partner entering data directly into a National Data System through a system-specific interface (manual entry).

EPA National Data System: Program-specific data systems at EPA that can receive and publish data via CDX.

Local Data System: A partner's database or series of databases in which environmental data is stored, managed, and manipulated.

XML: eXtensible Markup Language is a flexible language for creating common information formats and sharing both the format and content of data over the Internet and elsewhere. The electronic language that expresses and transports data standards and transaction sets. XML uses an extensible set of tags to describe the meaning of data.

Attachment 2: National System Flow “Ready to Use” Criteria

A focus of Exchange Network (EN) governance has been developing the National System Flows to help partners take advantage of the Network’s business value. Governance has identified six criteria for each flow to meet to make these flows “ready to use” by partners:

- Automation-ready flows. Support fully automated node-to-node flows.
- Access to transaction status. Support a fully automated process for reporting transaction status, processing results, and QA results from receipt by CDX through final processing in the National System.
- Accessible and stable flow documentation. Develop and make accessible stable documentation that describes all flow requirements. This includes a complete Flow Configuration Document (FCD) that is in compliance with EN procedures for version management.
- Solutions for all partners. Provide appropriately scaled EN solutions for partners of all sizes, needs, and capabilities. Some partners such as tribes and local clean air authorities may not need a fully functional node. A customized EN client or EN web client should be available to these users.
- Publishing interface. Provide a national standard set of query/solicit services defined in the FCD whether or not data are currently published. Implement a publishing interface where published data are critical to partner business processes (such as NPDES permit information for NetDMR).
- Clear path to eliminate alternatives. Have a clear path to eliminate legacy system alternatives to EN exchanges, including transition support for partners.