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This summary details the conference calls of the Exchange Network governance groups: Exchange Network Leadership Council (ENLC), Network Operations Board (NOB), Network Technology Group (NTG), and the Network Partnership and Resources Group (NPRG). This summary may also contain important information related to other meetings this month (i.e., Integrated Project Team meetings, Open Calls). For more information on Exchange Network governance, please visit:

<http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/>

Exchange Network Leadership Council

The ENLC call occurs on Thursdays every six weeks from 3:00-4:30pm ET.

The ENLC held a face-to-face meeting in Dallas, Texas on January 11-12, 2012. The summary from the meeting can be found at: <http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/exchange-network-leadership-council/>

Next Call: February 23rd, 2012

Network Operations Board

The NOB call occurs on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:00-12:00pm ET.

January 17th, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Virginia Thompson, Carol O'Tormey, Lucy Reed, Greg McNelly, Kurt Rakouskas, Connie Dwyer, Roy Walker, Chuck Freeman, Frank Harjo, Rob Willis, Kristen Durance

ACTION ITEMS:

- The NOB requests a one-page summary to accompany the REST Services document that highlights the benefits of using REST and how it is consistent with other EN standards.
- NOB members will review the proposed EN Browser enhancements and vote via email to determine if the Browser Workgroup should move forward with development.

SUMMARY:

REST Services

Kurt Rakouskas introduced the REST Services document that was developed by the NTG and distributed to the governance groups over the holidays. The document describes REST as an alternative way for people to publish information and an emerging alternative for publishing information on the Network. The NTG decided to articulate how REST and SOAP services interact to prepare for the inclusion of REST in the Network and develop an official position for the use of REST.

The document focuses on the technical aspects of REST and the implications across other technologies used on the Network. The NTG also discussed what to do with existing EN services and how REST might apply in the future. REST will make it easier for data providers to make data accessible via query and for data consumers to find information via the EN Browser. The NTG wanted to make sure any policy decisions were brought up to the governance groups and discussed before REST becomes more commonly used.

The NOB discussed the REST document and how REST can help expand the availability of publishing services and allow data providers some commonality and predictability for tool development. Under the right circumstances, REST can offer a simpler approach than SOAP for service development. The NOB group will continue to discuss REST on monthly calls to help develop the Network's policy for implementation.

The group also discussed the following changes to the document:

- Add text to the opening paragraph that describes REST (e.g., "what is REST") before describing REST "standards".
- Clarify in the document that there are no official REST standards b/c it is an approach for building services but the EN could develop a standard for environmental data. A potential example in the introduction would be helpful.
 - OIAA is using REST but there is not an official EPA policy for use at this time.
- A one page summary would help non-technical readers understand REST and be helpful to governance groups as they discuss how to move forward.
 - This should include a set of questions the NTG would answered that help inform the decision to move forward with REST.

EN Browser Enhancements

Mike Beaulac provided a summary of the browser enhancements which include:

- The Routine Health Check for EN Data Provider
- Software Version Update
- Sharing Personal Data Library
- Analysis by Map Enhancement

Browser enhancements are vetted through the NOB as they are proposed throughout the year. These enhancements were discussed during the call and the group decided to hold an email vote to determine the formal recommendation. Members will be asked to provide any comments and a 'yea' or 'nay' vote the week after the call.

Next Call: February 14th, 2012

For more information on the NOB, please visit: <http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/network-operations-board/>

Network Technology Group

The NTG call occurs the second Thursday of every month from 11:00-12:00pm ET.

January 5th, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Greg McNelly, Tony Jeng, Bob Simpson, Doug Timms, Kurt Rakouskas, Chuck Freeman, Glen Carr, Chris Clark, Tony Hartrich, Joe Carioti, Rob Willis, Megan Parker

ACTION ITEMS:

- Kurt Rakouskas will email the ICIS-NPDES IPT to notify them of the NTG's approval of the schema and services package sent to the NTG prior to the call.
- The NTG Co-Chairs will discuss the possible topics and timing of a potential NTG face-to-face meeting on the next NTG co-chairs call and come back to the NTG with ideas.
- The NTG will submit the REST Services document to the NOB for review.
- Megan Parker will add Sue Coleman (EPA) to the NTG distribution list.

SUMMARY:

ICIS-NPDES data flow package for outbound services that will deliver reference table values:

- An IPT was formed several months ago to design a set of schemas and outbound services for the ICIS-NPDES database to allow users to pull information out using the EN.
- The NTG reviewed the first package submitted by this group that is a fairly simple set of schema and services for pulling back information primarily from reference tables in ICIS. This does not involve any compliance and permitting data which will be part of the next steps in the IPT's process.
- Bill Rensmith sent his review of the schema to the NTG via email prior to the call. He found the need for minor changes related to the name space and version number that the IPT has already agreed to make.

REST Services subgroup document and next steps:

- The REST Services subgroup submitted a recommendations document to the NTG for review and approval. The document contains a description of REST-based web services and what the relationship of REST services is to the existing SOAP-based infrastructure. There is also a description of how the existing SOAP services can be provided to those interested in accessing SOAP-based services using REST (through a standard URL).
- The NTG should have future discussions as to the implications and significance of new technology (and specifically REST), the implications of REST on EN tools and technology (i.e., Nodes, ENDS, DEDL, and EN Browser), and how this document can be rolled out to the EN user community.

Potential NTG Face-to-Face meeting topics and dates:

- The NTG has not had a face-to-face meeting in almost two years and it could be appropriate timing for another meeting given the level and nature of discussions the NTG is having. The NTG Co-Chairs will discuss the possible topics and timing of this meeting on the next NTG co-chairs call and come back to the NTG with ideas.

Next Call: February 9, 2012

For more information on the NTG, please visit: <http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/network-technology-group/>

Network Partnership and Resources Group

The NPRG call occurs the first Thursday of every month from 2:30-4:00pm ET.

January 5th, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Carmel Rubin, Martin Husk, April Hathcoat, Jonathan Jacobson, Virginia Thompson, Janice McLean, Jurgen Koch, Salena Reynolds, Greg McNelly, Tom Beierle, Darcy Peth

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ross & Associates will distribute a draft NPRG Face-to-Face meeting agenda for members to use in making travel arrangements.
- Salena Reynolds will revise the EN 101 presentation to incorporate NPRG comments, and work with Greg to get it posted on the website. Salena will ensure that the terminology used in the presentation is consistent with that used on the website.
- Ross & Associates will follow up with Jurgen to discuss the UIC Implementation Guide.
- Ross & Associates will look through the grant guidance and list flows that might warrant future Implementation Guides, and present them for discussion on the February call.
- Ross & Associates will summarize NPRG questions about the TRI and RCRAInfo Implementation Guides and send them to Jonathan for him to pass along to the programs.
- Ross & Associates will incorporate NPRG feedback on the guides from this call and send the revised guides to Jonathan for distribution to the programs for their review.

SUMMARY:

Exchange Network 101 PowerPoint Presentation

- Salena Reynolds described the revised EN 101 presentation. She described changes made to slide 11.
- The NPRG agreed that the presentation should be made consistent with the EN website and posted there.

Implementation Guides

- Members suggested adding a link on the website to a page with all of the guides listed, and making the guides more prominent on each flow page.
- The suggestion was made that the guides should be used as a part of FY13 NPM Guidance for the programs.
- The TRI guide needs a definition of TDX viewer.
- Each guide should include a link to that flow's page on the website.
- NPRG members provided specific feedback and suggested revisions to the AQS, EIS, and RCRAInfo guides.
- The group discussed whether it is okay for the guides and the action plan to be out of synch in the dates listed. The group expressed that it will be ideal to continue updating the guides as the action plan is updated so that they remain in synch.
- "RCRA Handler" will be changed to RCRAInfo.
- Outstanding questions raised by the NPRG on the TRI and RCRAInfo guides will be passed along to the program offices for clarification.

Next Call: February 2, 2012

For more information on the NPRG, please visit: <http://www.exchangenetwork.net/about/network-management/network-partnership-and-resources-group/>

Drinking Water Integrated Project Team (IPT)

The Drinking Water IPT calls occur every two weeks on Thursdays from 1:00-2:30pm ET. The IPT held two calls in January.

January 5th, 2012

ACTION ITEMS:

- Mike Matsko (NJ) provided details on the location requirements for the CDC Tracking Network drinking water data to Greg and Rob for circulation to the rest of the team.
- Team members will review the data elements included in the draft SDWA v3.0 DET for the following:
 - Any potential data collection issues for current data elements identified (There are 171 data elements identified in the excel document - these are noted in columns O through T with an 'x').
 - Additional data elements that members would like to discuss.
 - How data elements should be expressed (e.g., free text, specific drop-down lists, code values).
- Members will provide thoughts via email by Thursday, January 12th to Kristen (Kristen.durance@ross-assoc.com). Comments will be compiled and circulated back to the team in preparation for the Jan. 19th call.

SUMMARY:

The Drinking Water IPT Kickoff Call provided an opportunity for IPT members to introduce themselves and describe their connection to drinking water data. The team also discussed the draft charter and Greg Fabian gave a brief presentation on the Exchange Network and the EPA drinking water strategy. Greg also discussed the work of the State-EPA Implementation Workgroup which recommended the creation of the IPT to help define the necessary XML schemas, web services, and other resources necessary to support the exchange of drinking water data over the Exchange Network.

The IPT will use the data elements from the existing SDWIS XML schemas along with the data elements identified by the IWG as the basis for the new XML schemas. The IPT will also identify opportunities to satisfy information needs of stakeholders from the environmental and public health communities, including partners on the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. The resulting data exchange will:

1. Allow delegated states to report data to U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Information System;
2. Allow states to voluntarily share additional compliance monitoring data with U.S. EPA;
3. Enable states, EPA (and other providers of drinking water data) to voluntarily share drinking water data with a variety of data consumers (e.g. environmental and public health agencies at federal, state, and local levels); and
4. Support public tools for accessing and understanding drinking water information.

The group also reviewed the initial schema and DET developed by Doug Timms and discussed potential data elements that should be included. The Association of Public Health Laboratories provided a detailed description of data elements they would like to include that would help bridge the data gap between labs and state agencies. The group also discussed how to use the schema to move data from labs to other data consumers but it was decided that this should be conducted in a separate schema and was referred back to the SDWIS IWG.

The pacing for the Drinking Water IPT will require bi-weekly calls using the following schedule as a guide:

Date	Tasks
Jan. 5	Kickoff Call, Charter adoption, and review of work to date
Jan. 19	Data Exchange Requirements and Business Rules (con't).

Feb. 2	Finalize decisions on Data Exchange Requirements and Business Rules. Identify states to pilot the implementation of published web services.
Feb. 16	Review Draft XML Schema and Data Exchange Template
March 1	Final Decisions on XML Schema and Draft Data Exchange Architecture (Flow Configuration Document)
March 15	Final Decisions on Data Exchange Architecture and Brainstorm Shared Tools/Resources
March 29	Review results of data exchange state pilot test
April 12	Review Draft Components of the Drinking Water Data Exchange and continued conversation on Shared Tools Resources
April 26	Decisions/Final comments on Components of the Drinking Water Data Exchange

January 19th, 2012

ACTION ITEMS:

- Team members will submit any additional feedback on the updated drinking water schema file to Kristen.
- Members will also submit any additional high-level feedback on the draft compliance monitoring data flow diagram presented by Greg Fabian.

SUMMARY:

The team reviewed the updated SDWA data elements as presented by Doug Timms and focused on the addition of the APHL proposed data elements. Many of these were already covered by existing elements and others were easily included by Doug in the updated version. Additional discussions with APHL staff will help resolve the few remaining data elements where there are questions on data source and format.

The team also discussed the data exchange requirements and business rules using the draft compliance monitoring data flow diagram developed by Greg Fabian. This diagram described potential data flows from reporting agencies via the EN and CDX to the SDWIS “back office”. The group discussed mapping options and the idea that EPA may provide mapping tools that allow agencies to skip the use of SDWIS FedRep. This will be discussed in more detail on future calls.

The next call will be used to make any final modifications to the schema and data exchange template as well as the high level flow diagram. Once both of these documents are more or less stable the IPT will focus on documenting and developing the necessary configuration documentation and determine the next steps for pilot testing the schema.

Next Call: February 2nd, 2012

Greenhouse Gas Integrated Project Team (IPT)

The Greenhouse Gas IPT calls occur every three weeks on Tuesdays from 1:00-2:30pm ET.

January 31st, 2012

ACTION ITEMS:

- Rob Willis will email a link to a file that mirrors the data that is available in the DataMart.
- States and tribes that are interesting in participating with the CO grant project should email Rob Willis.

SUMMARY:

Update on GHG Outbound Services

- Andy Putnam (CO) and Kurt Rakouskas (Exchange Network) described the process that has been proposed for states to receive GHG data from EPA via the Exchange Network.
- The initial services that EPA will make available will allow the users to limit the scope of the detailed dataset by parameters like reporting year and state. A more detailed query at the county level will also be available. The request will be passed from state and tribal nodes or node clients on the Exchange Network using the Central Data Exchange (CDX), which is managed by OEI. The CDX node will have access to EPA's GHG DataMart. This first query will result in a normalized, summary file of facilities and their emissions. Users can then run a secondary data query based on the first data query parameters, and the CDX node will access more detailed information; these submission files will be stored in XML within the DataMart.
- CO has an Exchange Network grant to build a plug-in for its node that will allow it to pull down both the simple summary data and more detailed GHG data, which will result in a data file that is similar in structure to the reporting subparts. Once the CDX node and data exchange services have been defined with EPA, CO anticipates building this plug-in for its node (a Windsor .NET node), and basic front end to the database that ties into CO's facility profiler and allows the data to be queried at the state, county, and zip code levels. The services from CDX will be available to any Exchange Network user, and CO will share the database and query tool it develops with any interested states. The output of the query from CDX will be an XML file; states that reuse the CO plug-in will be able to convert into a sequel format. Once CO has the specifications from CDX, it will take approximately three months to secure a contract.

Update on GHG Data Publication

- Kong Chiu (EPA) briefed participants on the status of publishing GHG data via the EPA DataMart.
- EPA will continue to develop the tool to include multi-year data displays, supplier data, trend functions, and the ability to download XML files via FRS ID. These XML files will be refreshed as new submissions are received. EPA will likely include a time and date when files are updated.
- EPA has conducted two rounds of verification on the data. If states are aware of specific facilities that should have registered and reported, they should let EPA know.
- EPA is currently preparing to launch the GHG data collection effort for the 2012 reporting year.

Next Call: March 13th, 2012