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| EPA Updated Access to Online Beach Conditions Data (BEACON))  FACT SHEET  <http://watersgeo.epa.gov/beacon2/> |
| Summary |
| The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act (section 406(e)) requires the EPA to make available a national database that contains state reported beach monitoring and notification data. In 2003, the EPA created the BEACON (BEach Advisory and Closing Online Notification) system to meet the Agency's BEACH Act requirements. We have updated the BEACON system to use state-of-the-art map navigation and report display tools. Maps will now be dynamically produced and show the location of over 6,000 beaches and the related water quality monitoring stations on road map or satellite base maps. For the first time, reports will combine both notification data and water quality monitoring data. Also for the first time, new state data will be able to be displayed every 2 hours. |
| Background |
| EPA updated BEACON to include several enhancements, including increased analytical capabilities at beach and aggregate levels, for example trends, exceedances, advisories and closures, pollution sources. The new BEACON 2.0 provides access to three types of information updated on a more frequent basis: mapped location data (beaches and monitoring stations); monitoring results (pathogens, algae, salinity, and more); and notification data (advisories and closures). |
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| ***Enhancements*** |
| The BEACON 2.0 system includes several enhancements from the previous version and now provides several ways to access beach monitoring and notification data. Enhancements include:   * A revised mapping interface with many new features and has greater functionality. * A new report creation wizard that walks users through three steps to select beaches, set search filters, and view BEACON reports. * A new RSS feed generator that provides the ability to generate an RSS feed for an area of user interest.   BEACON 2.0 also offers a report generator that can accommodate a wide range of user skill levels:   * ***Basic users*** can access five different reports for a selected beach via the map interface. * ***Intermediate users*** can use the report creation wizard to select data by any combination of state/tribe/territory, county, and/or beach. The complete list of BEACON reports is available in the wizard. * ***Advanced users*** can use filtering tools to modify previously selected filters or add new, more advanced filters. They can also change the look and feel of a report. |
| ***Data Sources***  The data available through BEACON have been provided to EPA by the coastal and Great Lakes states, tribes and territories that receive grants under the BEACH Act. The state-reported data found in BEACON come from the following EPA databases:   * RAD – Reach Address Database of geographic data that define each beach's location and the location of water quality monitoring stations, * STORET and WQX – the STOrage and RETrieval database, and the Water Quality Exchange, EPA's repositories of water quality monitoring data, and * PRAWN – PRogram tracking, beach Advisories, Water quality standards, and Nutrients, containing beach administrative, advisory, and closing data.   See the Users Guide at: <http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/beachgrants/upload/beacon_usersguide.pdf#page=5> |
| For More Information |
| Please contact Bill Kramer at 202-566-0385 or by email at [Kramer.bill@epa.gov](mailto:Kramer.bill@epa.gov)  . |