

Environmental Information



EN2017

INTEGRATED STATE PLAN ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION AND TRACKING SYSTEM

Ron Evans, U.S. EPA OAR

Robert Bielawa, NYS DEC

2017 Exchange Network National Meeting

Innovation and Partnership

May 15-18, 2017

Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

#EN2017

<http://www.exchangenetwork.net/en2017>

ABSTRACT

- This modernization project will provide a state-of-the-art information technology system for authorized state, local and tribal agencies to submit plans for EPA to process State Implementation Plans (SIPs) due under the federal Clean Air Act.
 - Agencies will be able to submit plans and related submissions through a secure web-based system (State Plan Electronic Collection System, or “SPeCS”).
 - EPA will be able to more efficiently track and process state submissions for implementing strategies to improve air quality.
 - For industry and environmental stakeholders and the public, the system will provide links to approved plans and submittal status information.

Objectives of this Session

- Share our vision for the integrated state plan submission and tracking system (SPeCS)
- Provide an update on progress toward that vision
- Describe how our state, local and tribal agencies and regional partners can participate in system development
- Highlight the use of SPeCS as a shared service

Vision: Integrated Electronic State Plan Submission System

- Our vision is to create an integrated electronic submission system for SIPs and other state submittals that enables us to:
 - Manage state submissions more efficiently and effectively
 - Increase transparency through data availability
- Other state submittals could include:
 - Exceptional Events demonstrations
 - Title V permits
 - Reports required by statute or regulation for NAAQS implementation purposes
- This system could also provide shared services for other parts of EPA
 - OLEM is adapting SPeCS for Agency Federal Facility Recovery and Reuse Program

Benefits of the System

- SPeCS will provide significant benefits to states, locals, tribes, EPA and the public
 - Modern way of operating, similar to e-commerce sites
 - Substantial cost savings to EPA through consolidation of multiple existing IT systems and more efficient plan processing
 - Savings on printing, mailing and storing costs
 - Safe and secure submissions
 - Summary record of submission information
 - Ease of information access through an improved interface
 - Increased transparency
 - Improved overall efficiency in EPA's ability to review, track and process submissions
 - More real time data

First Step: the eSIP system

- EPA launched its electronic SIP (“eSIP”) system in March 2015 as a first step toward creating an integrated electronic submission system for SIPs and other state submissions, allowing states to submit plans electronically.
- The eSIP system was in response to a recommendation of the EPA/NACAA/ECOS SIP Reform Workgroup for electronic submittal and greater transparency in SIP processing.
- eSIP Stats as of May 2017
 - 46 out of 50 states (DC and 2 US Territories) are registered for the eSIP system
 - 25 states and 1 US Territory have made submissions
 - Total of 226 SIPs have been submitted

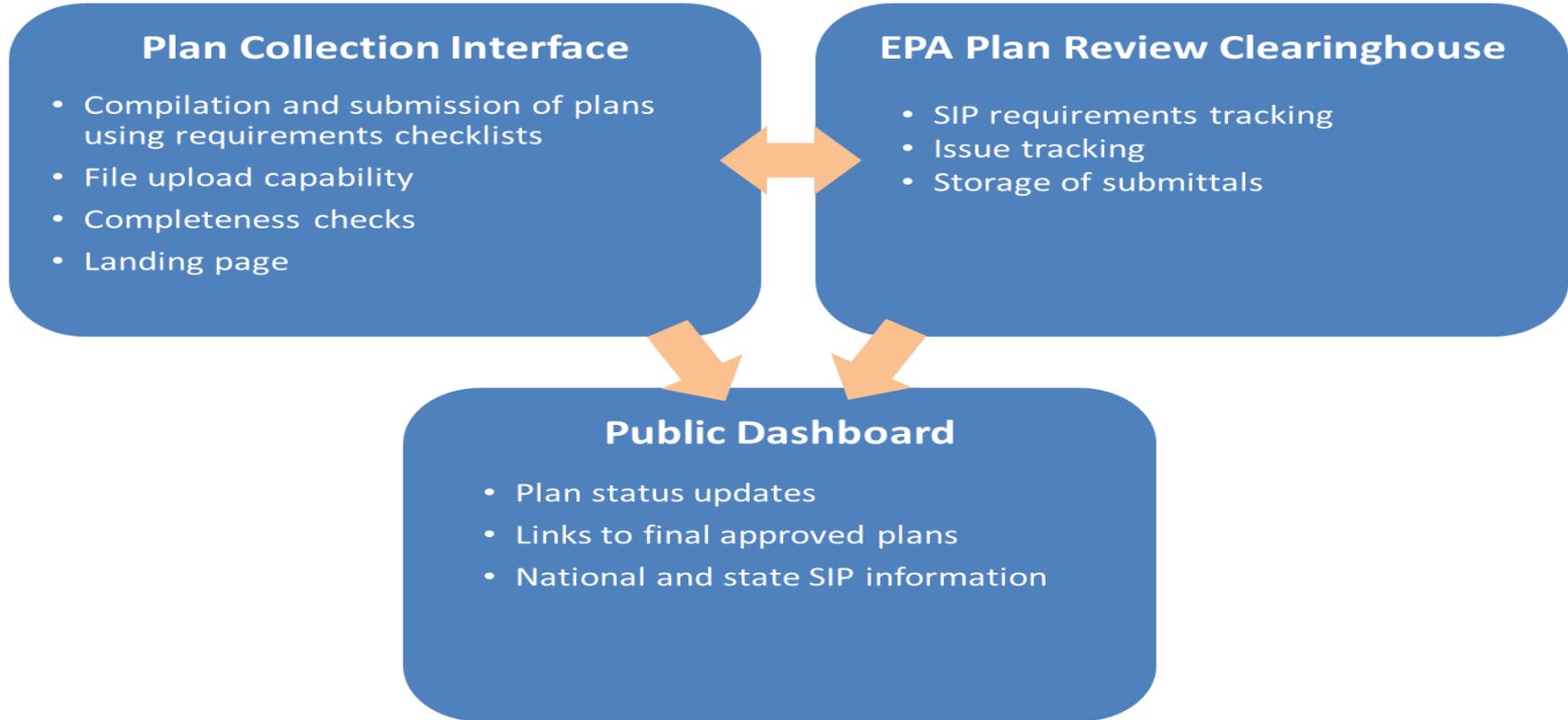
Second Step: Expanding on eSIP

- In FY 2015, several states and EPA offices came together through an E-Enterprise Integrated Project Team (IPT) to assess how SPeCS could be used to build on the eSIP system to accommodate SIP submittals
- The IPT focused on the features and functions that would be desirable for two components of the system:
 1. State plan collection interface (SIP submittal pages)
 2. Public dashboard
- The IPT recommended developing SPeCS for SIP submittal purposes and included suggestions for priority features

Next Step: Building SPeCS for SIPs

- In FY 2016, EPA initiated its “SPeCS for SIPs” project based on recommendations made by the E-Enterprise IPT
- The goal of SPeCS for SIPs is to improve and modernize the SIP submission process by enabling:
 - Air agencies to follow a step-by-step, web-based process to upload submissions and transmit them to EPA (replacing eSIP);
 - EPA to store plans in a centralized electronic repository;
 - EPA to track and resolve national issues;
 - EPA to track state compliance with CAA requirements;
 - External public access to status information on EPA action on SIPs, links to submissions, and links to FR notices; and
 - Future additional functionality, such as maintaining SIP compilations and accommodating other submission types

SPeCS for SIPs Major Components



Plans for FY 2017

- In FY 2017, our plans are to complete:
 - Developing 3 main components of the system:
 - 1) Plan collection interface (state, tribal and local submissions)
 - 2) EPA internal clearinghouse (EPA tracking, reviewing, and processing of submissions)
 - 3) Public dashboard (submission status information for general public viewing)
 - Integrating existing EPA IT systems (currently used within EPA for tracking, reviewing, and processing submittals)
 - Accommodating state, local and tribal submissions to meet all infrastructure SIP and attainment plan requirements
- Anticipated completion: November 2017

Plans for FY 2018

- In FY 2018, our plans are to expand the system to other types of Clean Air Act related state submissions, such as:
 - 1) Exceptional events demonstrations
 - 2) Title V permits
- Anticipated completion: November 2018
- Beyond Clean Air Act submissions, we are exploring with other EPA offices the potential use of SPeCS as a shared service for other programs
 - OLEM is adapting SPeCS for the Federal Facility Recovery and Reuse Program
 - We are actively soliciting EPA and S/L/T staff for ideas on how to adapt SPeCS for other EPA programs

Summary of Progress

Element	Status	
eSIP system	Launched March 2015	
State Plan Electronic Collection System		
Joint State/EPA planning team characterizes needs	September 2015	
Team input on state & public components through a planning document	June 2016	
Additional development of a state submission interface (beyond eSIP), internal EPA clearinghouse and public dashboard components	Under development for delivery in November 2017	in progress
Additional functionality and other state submissions	Planned for 2018	

State, Local and Tribal Participation in System Development and Testing

- As future users of the system and co-regulators with EPA, air agencies will play a key role in ensuring success of this project
- EPA is working to identify opportunities for seeking input and feedback from air agencies as we develop this system, such as through participation in:
 - E-Enterprise SPeCS integrated project team
 - Webinars and Regional hub calls
 - Beta testing groups
- EPA welcomes input from states, locals, and tribes and regional organizations at any point in the system development process

Vision: Moving from Paper Submissions to an Integrated State Plan Submission and Tracking System



Source: http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1843821_1843820_1843808,00.html, Everett.

Source: <http://giphy.com/gifs/the-jetsons-MWAJkQR2MJEEo>

For more information

- Please contact Ron Evans, OAQPS/EPA at evans.ron@epa.gov or
- Mia South, OAQPS/EPA at south.mia@epa.gov