

# **Public Access to EPA Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Data**

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**Enforcement and Compliance History Online**  
**<http://echo.epa.gov>**

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# Introduction

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**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides public access to its regulatory compliance and enforcement data via the Internet.**

**The Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) website at <http://echo.epa.gov> integrates data from major EPA information systems for public use.**



## **ECHO is EPA's public website that provides compliance information about regulated facilities**

- How they are regulated (CAA, CWA, RCRA, SDWA)
- When they were inspected
- Whether violations of environmental regulations were found
- Whether enforcement actions were taken

**The site also provides aggregated activity statistics by state and some batch files**



# ECHO Audience

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**ECHO was released to the public in 2002**

**Use has increased steadily over the years, providing answers to two million queries per year**

**ECHO is used by:**

- Members of the general public
- Citizen groups and non-governmental agencies
- Academics and researchers
- Members of the press
- Businesses and companies
- Other government agencies



## **Compliance history for more than 800,000 EPA-regulated facilities**

- Three-year compliance status with five-year inspection and enforcement history
- EPA and state, local, and tribal environmental agency data for:
  - CAA stationary sources
  - CWA permitted direct dischargers
  - RCRA hazardous waste handlers
  - SDWA public water systems
- EPA inspection and enforcement action data for other statutes like EPCRA, FIFRA, TSCA



# ECHO Content (cont'd)

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## Compliance History

- Basic facility and permit data
- Inspections/evaluations performed
- Violations with pollutants or brief violation types
- Significant violation status
- Enforcement actions taken
- Penalties assessed
- Additional data for context
  - Demographics of area surrounding facility from U.S. Census
  - Pollutant release data from TRI



# Sources of ECHO Content

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## ECHO extracts data from other EPA data systems weekly

- Air Facility System
- Integrated Compliance Information System
  - Clean Water Act direct dischargers
  - Multi-state EPA enforcement cases
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRAInfo)
- Facility Registry System
- *Updated quarterly* – Safe Drinking Water Information System



# Sources of ECHO Content (cont'd)

## ECHO integrates other data for context

- EPA's Toxics Release Inventory
- U.S. Census





# Capabilities and Reports

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## Abilities

- Search for facilities/systems based on key attributes
- Review/download summary data
- Review a detailed, integrated facility report (cross-statute)
- Examine severity of violations
- Download annual data files
- Review detailed information about EPA enforcement cases
- Look at overall enforcement and compliance status trends on state comparative maps and dashboards



# Waste Water Pollution Data

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**ECHO includes some pollution data but links to more in-depth tools**

## **Clean Water Act Pollutant Loading Tool** **(<http://cfpub.epa.gov/dmr/>)**

- Who is discharging, what pollutants they are discharging, and where they are discharging
- Data from Integrated Compliance Information System
- Compare wastewater pollution releases reported through CWA discharge monitoring reports to Toxic Release Inventory for industrial facilities
- Will be integrated with ECHO beginning June 2014



# System Modernization

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**In 2013, 23-year-old mainframe data system replaced with Oracle data mart**

**Moved from monthly to weekly data refreshes for most data**

**Information maintained at**

**[http://echo.epa.gov/echo\\_modernization](http://echo.epa.gov/echo_modernization)**



# Modernization – Upcoming Features

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## Features Coming in 2014

- Drinking water (SDWA) system search
  - Launched in March
- CWA facility search, effluent charts, water quality data, and loading tool integration
- EPA Enforcement Cases search
- Hazardous waste (RCRA) facility search
- CAA facility and pollutant search
  - May be 2015 depending on source system modernization



**ECHO reports, including the facility search results tables and maps, Detailed Facility Report, and Enforcement Case Report, are built from public web services**

- API for the Detailed Facility Search service is documented and posted on [http://echo.epa.gov/web\\_services](http://echo.epa.gov/web_services)
- Documentation for other services will be posted soon

**Static content is managed by Drupal, an open-source content management system**

**Dynamic content is built with a combination of PHP and Javascript**



**Contact Us** link provides access to user support

## **Site Documentation**

- Home page Resources tile
- “Help” buttons on search pages and reports

**Training series will be posted – the first will be available in May**

**ECHO includes an online error correction process with a network of state and EPA data stewards who address data error reports**



# Questions?

