

Hello eSMR User Group,

On October 28, we sent an [email](#) requesting user input on a particular area our eSMR2.5 project. We presented two options on how to handle uploaded data. From the feedback received I created a list of questions and answers.

Q/A:

“Since I don't use LIMS would I be required to manually enter all my DMR data, or will there be something similar to the PET tool for the DMR?”

There will not be something similar to the PET tool. The web interface will contain the DMR requirements in a format similar to the DMR form. The web interface will be regularly updated to contain the most recent copy of your requirements. The web interface provides a medium to distribute the latest requirements and reduce the amount of errors.

Although it is envisioned that LIMS users will be able to create an uploadable file, it is not a requirement that a LIMS is used. The file format that will be uploadable will rely on codes and a specified structure that can be created in a variety of ways, though likely most readily by a LIMS.

“Will this change require us to modify the file we give to our clients? If so, can you provide us with the revised EDD layout or format.”

Yes, we will provide more information when it is available.

“We would want the option that most reduces the chances for errors in reporting (caused by the user or the system) either in terms of different/wrong values or missed constituents. That would be option A, correct?”

The error occurred before file A or B was uploaded. The options provided ways in which you can resolve those errors. It is a matter of preference. On one hand “you can fix the errors on the fly” on the other “you have a *complete* uploaded file.”

“How will the SWRCB track the changes made to each DMR data uploaded to the eSMR in Option B?”

The system will track modifications made to the report, however, staff don't have a mechanism to review changes before the report is certified and submitted.

“Is the SWRCB tracking now how many times we upload and change eSMR data?”

The system tracks modifications made to the report, however, staff don't have a mechanism to review changes before the report is certified and submitted.

“Is the SWRCB tracking how many times we certify and uncertify an eSMR submission?”

Yes, the system tracks if a report is withdrawn and resubmitted.

Hello eSMR User Group,

As you know, the Water Boards are enhancing eSMR to accommodate accepting Discharger Monitoring Report (DMR) data and transferring it to USEPA. Upon completion and testing of the system, the electronic submittal of the DMR data will replace the paper forms that "major" NPDES permit holders must currently submit.

The system that we are developing is called eSMR2.5. We received EPA grant money to complete this project and are currently working with our contractor to complete the work.

Our preferred option for accomplishing this is for users to log into esmr, find the report they would like to edit, complete the SMR data entry/upload portion, go to separate tab(s) within the same report to complete the DMR portion. DMR data may be entered through a web interface or it may be uploaded if you have a LIMS (in a format that is different from the PET Tool). The system will contain the expectations for the DMR data, like the paper forms do now. (This is somewhat different than the group previously discussed, but our internal team thinks this gives the greatest amount of flexibility and ease of entry.)

There will be a single "certify and submit" process to complete both eSMR and DMR reports simultaneously. The DMR data will then be packaged in an xml format at sent to EPA.

At this point in our requirements development, we have a particular area in which we would like your input. It concerns the handling of uploaded data. The two options being considered is described below. A requirement of either option is that we not store or make accessible data that may be inconsistent. For example, we don't want to store a file that says value 1 = A and have the screen show that value 1 = B or have one stored file say value 2 = X and another stored file that says value 2 = Z.

Option A

The file that is uploaded containing some or all of the DMR data is stored and accessible. It populates the appropriate expectations. Additional files may be uploaded, but any uploads that contain duplicative or conflicting data (such as two average monthly BOD values) will not be allowed to be uploaded. Deleting a file will delete all data that is uploaded in that file. Web interface editing of uploaded data is not allowed.

Pros

This option is most consistent with eSMR.

If it is discovered that the wrong file is submitted, deleting the file is the quick and easy way to delete all of the values.

Cons

This option is more technically complex (and therefore likely more expensive) because where the data comes from must be tracked and then locked within the web interface.

This option may be considered more cumbersome because to change one value that has been uploaded, the file must be deleted, changed and then reuploaded.

Option B

The file that is uploaded containing some or all of the DMR data is not stored and made accessible. The file is used to populate the appropriate expectations but then not saved. If duplicative or conflicting data (such as two average monthly BOD values) are uploaded, the one that is uploaded most recently will be retained. Since there is no file to delete, you cannot delete the file to remove all data what is uploaded in that file. Web interface editing of uploaded data is allowed.

Pros

This option allows more flexibility than option A because if a mistake is made in the uploaded file, changes may be made in the web interface.

Cons

This is inconsistent with the way that eSMR works and may lead to confusion and mistakes when trying to change uploaded data. There is no easy way to delete uploaded values (however, we may be able to add a "clear all" button, though this will add to the complexity. Also, because we know the specific expectations, a value for each expectation must be completed, even if it is a "no data code.")

Please consider the above options and let us know which you prefer. Also include whether you currently use your LIMS to generate the eSMR CDF file.

We will consider all feedback received by Thursday, November 3.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Rassam