

March 25, 2002

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Final Enforcement and Compliance Data Quality Strategy and Description of FY 2002 Data Quality Strategy Implementation Plan Projects

FROM: Michael M. Stahl, Director /s/
Office of Compliance

TO: Regional Enforcement Division Directors, Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, 8
Regional Media Division Directors, Regions 3, 5, 7, 9, 10
Connie Musgrove, Acting Director, Office of Regulatory Enforcement
Barry Breen, Director, Office of Site Remediation Enforcement
Mary Kay Lynch, Director, Office of Planning, Policy Analysis and
Communication
Craig Hooks, Director, Federal Facility Enforcement Office

Attached is the final Enforcement and Compliance Data Quality Strategy. On October 26, 2001, I sent for your review and comment the draft Enforcement and Compliance Data Quality Strategy and the FY 2002 Data Quality Strategy Implementation Plan. We received many thoughtful comments on the Strategy and the proposed FY 2002 data quality projects as described in the Implementation Plan. We reviewed each comment, and where appropriate, incorporated them into the Strategy and Implementation Plan.

The Strategy aims to strategically focus formerly ad hoc efforts to improve the quality of data related to enforcement and compliance assurance activities. The Data Quality Strategy will serve as the guiding document for ensuring the Agency's enforcement and compliance data is of the quality to support program decisions, accurately reflect activities and accomplishments, and ensure public confidence. It is important for Headquarters and Regional offices to apply this Strategy to all their activities that rely on enforcement and compliance data. The Regional media and enforcement division directors will be responsible for working with states to ensure their participation in the data quality projects.

Rather than re-send the entire revised FY 2002 Data Quality Strategy Implementation Plan, an overview of the Plan (Appendix 3) and a description and schedule for implementing the

projects (Appendix 4) are provided. Appendix 4 also summarizes the comments received and our responses/decisions made. The revised documentation for the projects will be distributed when the projects are implemented.

The Agency is also launching a public access data initiative that involves an EPA-State data review period. Shortly after this data review is completed, a public access home page will be posted on the EPA web site -- providing access to the Agency's enforcement and compliance data. In addition, the EPA, States, and the public will all be able to submit potential data errors for correction. This Internet error correction process is described in the Data Quality Strategy under the Ongoing Activities section. To monitor the progress and schedule of the public access project, please check the following web site:

(<http://www.epa.gov/idea/publicaccess/state/>).

Finally, we plan to follow a similar approach to last year in developing the FY 2003 Data Quality Strategy Implementation Plan. Our kick-off workshop will be in Washington, D.C., on April 30th, 2002. A formal memorandum will be released shortly soliciting participants for the April 30th workshop and subsequent workgroup meetings. We will ask for participants from the media program offices and staff who work directly with EPA's national databases (i.e., Docket, AFS, PCS, RCRAInfo, NCDB/FTTS, and SDWIS). It would be desirable if the same workgroup participants from last year's data quality workgroup continue to be involved this year. Appendix 5 provides a schedule for developing the FY 2003 Implementation Plan. The schedule also includes the proposed implementation milestones through February 2003.

If you have questions regarding the Strategy or the Implementation Plan, please feel free to contact Betsy Smidinger at 202-564-4017 or David Sprague at 202-564-4103.

Attachment

cc: Regional Enforcement Coordinators
OC Division Directors
ORE Division Directors
OSRE Divisions Directors
Data Quality Strategy Workgroup
Regional Lead Compliance and Enforcement Data Stewards
Regional Program Compliance and Enforcement Data Stewards