Glossary of Exchange Network Terms

Network Components

- **Data Exchange Templates –** empty but defined templates for data presentation and exchange. They identify what types of information are required for a particular document (i.e., name, address, etc.) as established in predefined standards or agreements.
- **Data Standards –** "documented agreements on formats and definitions of common data" according to the Environmental Data Standards Council.
- **Node –** a participant's single, managed portal for providing and receiving information via the Network.
- **Stewardship –** the management of Network assets in order to ensure their accessibility and integrity.
- **Technical Infrastructure –** the software, hardware and protocols use to make the Network function.
- **Trading Partner Agreement** – an agreement in the form of documents formally adopted by two or more partners for the purpose of defining the responsibilities of each party, the legal standing (if any) of the proposed exchange, and the technical details necessary to initiate and conduct electronic information exchange.

Network Terminology

- **Active Data Retrieval -** Within the Network and via CDX, EPA will use active data retrieval to obtain environmental data from other network nodes.
- **CDX (Central Data eXchange)** – a centralized electronic report receiving system that will serve as EPA's enterprise-wide portal to the National Environmental Information Exchange Network. .
- **CROMERRR (Cross Media Electronic Reporting and Records Rule)** – proposed rule issued by U.S. EPA in July 2000 that sets forth criteria for voluntary electronic environmental reporting and record keeping and intends to enable electronic submission of any document that the regulated community must submit or maintain under federal environmental laws.
- **Data Element –** individual pieces of data that are standardized through common definitions and formats (data standards) (e.g., facility name).
- **Data Stewardship** - Managing data, resources and activities including quality assurance, data collection, maintenance and disposition.
- **Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC**) – an independent forum established by the State/EPA Information Management Workgroup where States, Tribes whose mission is to promote the efficient sharing of environmental information between EPA, States, Tribes and other parties through the development of data standards.
- **Network Portal –** point of entry into the Network that is established by each member through a common protocol. This may include links to web sites or search engines.

- ➢ **Non-repudiation –** a service that provides proof of the integrity and origin of data, which can be verified by any third party at any time.
- ➢ **Port –** a system that translates a piece of software to bring it from one type of computer system to another.
- ➢ **Portal Authority** - the entity that controls access to a portal and maintains the web sites or search engines associated with that portal.
- ➢ **State/EPA Information Management Workgroup (SEIMWG) –** a group jointly established by U.S. EPA and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) whose mission is to improve the collection, management, and use of environmental data through providing a forum for resolving information issues between states and EPA; learning from each other's efforts and investments; and achieving a shared vision of future environmental information management.
- ➢ **Transaction** – document template containing data, including common header and footer information, exchange network standard data elements, and program/flow specific elements.
- ➢ **Transmission –** one or more transactions moved across the exchange network

Security Terms

- ➢ **Authentication -** process of verifying the identity of the sender and the integrity of the message. This can be done through the use of SSL, PKI, or other mechanisms.
- ➢ **Digital Certificate –** a record that is used to establish a secure connection. It contains information about who it belongs to, who it was issued by, a unique serial number or other unique identification, valid dates, and an encrypted "fingerprint" that can be used to verify the contents of the certificate.
- ➢ **Electronic Signature –** an electronic record usually attached to a larger record that is used by an individual as the legal equivalent of a handwritten signature.
- ➢ **PKI (Public Key Infrastructure)** – a system for issuing and validating digital certificates, including a root certificate authority a certificate repository or directory, a certificate practice statement and trained individuals performing trusted roles to operate and maintain the system.
- ➢ **SSL (Secure Sockets Layer)** – a protocol designed by Netscape Communications to enable encrypted, authenticated communications across the Internet. Users on both sides are able to authenticate data and ensure message integrity.

Technical Terms

- ➢ **EDI** (electronic data interchange) – the transmission of information between computers
- ➢ **FTP (File Transfer Protocol)** - tool used to transfer files through the Internet from one computer to another
- ➢ **HTML (HyperText Mark up Language) –** coding language of data standards that indicates how to format text exchanged electronically. A block of text is surrounded with codes that indicate how it should appear.

- **HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol**) - A set of rules for moving hypertext files across the Internet
- **Metadata –** "data about data" that describe the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of data. Metadata accompanies the data set through its transmission.
- **SHTTP(s) (Secure Hypertext Transfer Protocol**) **-** HTTP with the addition of security using Secure Sockets Layer.
- **TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol)** – the suite of protocols that defines the Internet
- **XML (eXtensible Markup Language**) – electronic language that expresses and transports data standards and transaction sets. XML uses an extensible set of tags to describe the meaning of data.
- **VPN (Virtual Private Network)** – A network that can be run over the public Internet while still giving privacy and/or authentication to each user of the network.

Other

- **NEPPS (National Environmental Performance Partnership System)** – a joint state/EPA system established in 1995 that allows states and tribes greater flexibility and control in managing environmental programs.
- **PPA (Performance Partnership Agreement) –** a broad strategic document containing a joint statement of priorities and goals negotiated between a state and EPA Region. Sometimes called an Environmental Performance Agreement.
- **SEA (State/EPA Agreement) –** annual operating agreements negotiated between states and their EPA Regions.