



# ELECTRONIC SANITARY SURVEY PROJECT BULLETIN

JUNE 2005

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## ABOUT THE DRINKING WATER ACADEMY

The Drinking Water Academy is a long-term training initiative whose primary goal is to expand EPA, State, and Tribal capabilities to implement the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

For more information on the DWA or on the electronic sanitary survey project, visit the Web site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa.html) or contact Jamie Bourne at [Bourne.James@epa.gov](mailto:Bourne.James@epa.gov) or at (202) 564-4095.

## DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO PDA SOFTWARE

The Electronic Sanitary Survey (ESS) software has undertaken a significant leap forward in dependability and usability in the past year.

Originally released with a large question set and flexibility to modify these questions, states were overwhelmed with the size and detail of the ques-

tions. States now have the option to start the process with several smaller versions of the question set—as small as 175 questions.

The ability to modify the question set, add questions and move questions around has gotten easier. Additionally,

some states have chosen to use their existing question set that meets the requirements of the eight elements of a sanitary survey. Some states have taken this software to the next level, developing small system versions of the software for different types of systems. You will see a few of these on the Web site.

## BRIDGE TO SDWIS/STATE

Populating water system information in the new sanitary survey software is accomplished by creating a direct link to SDWIS data. This new feature is called SDWIS Data Exchange, and it includes the capability to download and upload new information back to SDWIS.

Seamless transmission of sanitary survey data from the field to state databases is an important goal of the ESS project. A major first step in realizing this goal has been the construction of an electronic bridge for SDWIS/State Oracle users. With this bridge, states are able to download inventory and other system information into the electronic sanitary survey form, enabling inspectors to take the latest information with them. Inspectors, after completing the field inspection, have the option to update pertinent information in SDWIS/State.

The bridge to and from SDWIS has been completed for Oracle

users, and the Maine drinking water program is piloting the bridge. The DWA and the SDWIS/State Team just sent a version for SQL Server users to Alaska, a SDWIS state, that will help QA/QC the SQL bridge when ready by late spring 2005.

For more information about the SDWIS/State bridge, contact: Ed Cottrill at [cottrill.edward@epa.gov](mailto:cottrill.edward@epa.gov) or (202) 564-4096 or Deems Buell at [dbuell@nbenvironmental.com](mailto:dbuell@nbenvironmental.com) or (978) 392-9665 x 102.

## BRIDGE FOR SDWIS-FREE STATES

The DWA is supporting development of a bridge from ESS software for states that do not use SDWIS. The DWA has built a bridge for the State of Massachusetts to its database. For more information, contact Ed Cottrill or Deems Buell, as above.

We continue to refine the ESS process to enhance the users' experience in the field, reduce the time needed to answer questions and focus on their interaction with the system operators. The ability to populate questions with information from SDWIS/State and other state databases has been very helpful.

The PDA software that works with ESS has also been improved to try to eliminate software crashes and loss of data in the field. The PDAs now work with Desktop ESS in a much more reliable way, and the DWA will continue to work on this new technology to make sure that it operates as required. (When you download the latest Desktop ESS software, you also receive the latest PDA software, which you can install from Desktop ESS with the click of a button.)

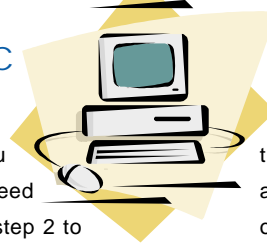
## DOWNLOAD THE ESS SOFTWARE TO YOUR PC

The new version of ESS is available for download on the ESS Web site at: <http://12.170.50.10/Downloads/SanitarySurvey/>

As you will see on the Web site, the software download process has two steps so users can select the state data file that they wish to work with and the actual client software. The Web page provides instructions to

download a data file (step 1) and a client file (step 2). The first time you install the new Desktop ESS, you will need to remove any existing versions of Desktop ESS using your control panel (add/remove programs). Then you will install one of the Desktop ESS data files listed under step 1. Once this installation is complete, you will install the Desktop ESS Setup file listed under step 2.

In the future, you will only need to repeat step 2 to receive software upgrades, while retaining all of your survey data.



If you run into trouble at any time, refer to the installation and operations guide available on the Web site. If you are still having difficulty setting up the program, please call Deems Buell at (978) 392-9665 x102.

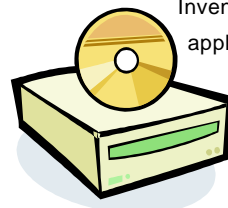
## UPCOMING FEATURES FOR THE PDA ESS SOFTWARE

Users of the earlier versions of the ESS software will be pleasantly surprised with the modifications and increased functionality of the software. But we are not yet done. As more states take their PDAs into the field, the DWA will continue to track their use, listen to inspectors, and find ways to increase their functionality in the field.

In the short term, we will add more functions to the software. We are analyzing state needs regarding the report functions to better tailor them to your needs. We will work closely with states to see how best to structure the existing reports and to see what additional reports are needed.

Another enhancement is the ability to add photos to the database and to merge them into the reports. This will be

particularly helpful in detailing deficiencies that need to be addressed by the system.



Maine's drinking water program has developed a small system sanitary survey question set that will be used for small groundwater systems. The question set has approximately 150 questions.

Inventory and other applicable question sets in the Maine SDWIS/State database have been linked and this information can be retrieved from SDWIS to populate those questions in the survey. These data can then be confirmed or updated during the survey.

Maine, a SDWIS Oracle state, will soon use the application in the field to conduct surveys. EPA will work closely with the state to see how the process is working and to continue to streamline the process.

For more information, contact:

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### UTAH BECOMES LATEST STATE TO IMPLEMENT ESS

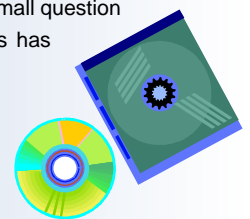
Utah has just finished training its sanitary survey inspectors to use the ESS PDA software. A SDWIS Oracle state, Utah soon will fully implement the software in the field.

More information is available from:

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Environmental Scientist  
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### DEVELOPING A SMALL SYSTEM QUESTION SET

Several small system versions of the ESS question sets are now available in ESS. In addition to the DWA's small question set for community systems, Massachusetts has developed a small system question set for transient, non-community systems. The state is currently testing this question set in the field. Massachusetts, which is a SDWIS-free state, worked with the DWA to build a bridge to the state's database.



As additional states develop question sets that are unique enough to provide as examples, they will be added to the Web site. Since each state must meet the "Eight Elements of a Sanitary Survey" requirement, it makes sense to see what other states have developed prior to launching your own electronic version.