Transcript for ECHO Facility-Level Enforcement & Compliance Data and Error Reporting Tutorial with Accessible Instructions

In this brief demonstration, you will learn more about detailed enforcement and compliance information for a facility and how to report a suspected error. EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online, or ECHO, provides you with Detailed Facility Reports for regulated facilities. For an overview on how to access and navigate this report, please watch the Detailed Facility Report tutorial on the ECHO Tutorials page.

[Begin on a Detailed Facility Report] In this demonstration, I'll show you how to navigate the Enforcement and Compliance section of this report and how to Report an Error on this report. By the end of the demonstration you'll have a better understanding of the enforcement and compliance details included in the detailed facility reports.

[Using the Tab key, navigate to the Enforcement and Compliance section header and press Enter to expand the section] Let's spend a little time reviewing the data provided in the Enforcement and Compliance section in more detail. This first table presents a 5-year history of compliance monitoring activities at the facility, such as inspections and compliance evaluations. As you can see, these tables can be very lengthy for facilities with multiple permits and a lot of monitoring activities. The information is organized by statute, and the default setting is to display all of the statues.

You can shorten this table by filtering it for the statute you want to examine using the radio buttons at the top of this section [Using the Tab key, navigate to a radio button at the top of the section and press Enter to filter by the selected statute. To return the view to all statutes, navigate to the "Include all statutes" radio button and press Enter].

The Compliance Summary Data table is a summary of the 3-year Compliance Status by Quarter table. The Current Significant Noncompliance/High Priority Violation in the summary table corresponds to the 12th quarter in the 3 year table below, and the Quarters in Noncompliance in the summary table correspond to the count of columns with violations in the 3 year table. You'll see below that Clean Water Act data also presents the latest available information, which is labeled Quarter 13. EPA provides this information to the public to facilitate error correction, which can improve and make more efficient the data reviews done by states and EPA for the Quarterly Noncompliance Report.

The age of the data will vary depending on when data were last updated from the source database. The facility report is an aggregate report and displays some data differently due to differences in tracking methods and indicators used in the source database.

Facility-Level Status displays a color-coded row that indicates the overall facility compliance status for each statute. For example, the red cell in Quarter 8 indicates a High Priority Violation. Remember to use the Data Dictionary for a list of abbreviations and color codes; the data Dictionary will help you understand how violations and compliance status are designated under the different statutes. [In addition to color, compliance statuses are indicated using text in each cell of the Three Year Compliance Status by Quarter table.]

The subsequent rows present the specific EPA program or pollutant in violation. The specific details provided in the table will differ according to the types of information tracked under each statute. Clean Water Act information is highly detailed and presents violations as a percentage released above the permitted limit.

If you suspect there is an error with data presented in this report, there are two ways to report an error.

[Navigate to the top of the page. Using the Tab key, navigate to the Report Data Error hyperlink and press Enter. Press the Escape key to close the overlay window] You can report a general error for the facility report [Using the Tab key, navigate to the Report General Error hyperlink] or you can report an error for a specific element of the report. We recommend that you report a specific error in most cases. The Report Error column and yellow icons will only appear if Report Data Error has been selected at the top of the page [Navigate to the Three Year Compliance Status by Quarter table].

Let me show you what an error report looks like [Using the Tab key, navigate to a yellow triangular icon within a row of the CWA Three Year Compliance table and press Enter].

As you can see, you will be asked to provide your name and contact information so that we can communicate with you about your error notification [Enter a name and email, then navigate to the "Next" button using the Tab key and press Enter].

The second page of the Error Report displays the specific row of data for which you suspected an error. A textbox is provided for you to explain why you suspect there is an error, and your suggested corrections.

Notifications will be routed through the EPA Office of Environmental Information error correction process. That office will use the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance's list of regional and state enforcement and compliance data stewards as the responsible officials for examining and correcting data errors. Processing error notifications typically takes a few business days, depending on the availability of information needed to process the correction.

Let's go back to the detailed facility report [Press Ctrl + W to close the Data Dictionary tab and navigate back to the Report page].

From the Clean Water Act Three Year Compliance Status by Quarter table, you can access even more details about effluent limit violations by clicking on the pollutant name [Using the Tab key, navigate to a pollutant name hyperlink and press Enter].

Here you can view the Effluent Chart for the selected pollutant from the facility report. If you suspect any data errors on the effluent charts, you can follow a similar process to report an error. There is a separate tutorial for learning how to navigate and understand the Effluent Charts, which can be found on the ECHO Tutorials page. Now we will go back to the Detailed Facility Report [Press Ctrl + W to close the Data Dictionary tab and navigate back to the Report page].

You can see that the violation information for RCRA is very different from Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act data. Violations are categorized as noncompliance events and are listed with the beginning and return-to-compliance dates. The greater than signs you see in this table indicate that the violation remains open in the source database.

Facilities may not have data for every report section or statute.

The next two tables describe Informal and Formal Enforcement Actions taken by the state or EPA in the last five years. Informal actions are typically warnings and notices to the facility, while formal actions can be judicial or administrative orders and fines.

Finally, the ICIS Case History table provides the federal civil enforcement actions that have been entered into the Integrated Compliance Information System for this facility over the past five years. It also displays state formal enforcement actions for the Clean Air Act Stationary Source and Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System programs. When you click a Case Number, a new browser window will open to display the Enforcement Case Report. You can learn more about conducting an Enforcement Case Search within the Enforcement Case Report Help page.

During this demonstration, we learned how to examine a facility's Enforcement and Compliance data in the Detailed Facility Report. We also reviewed how to report a general and specific data error on a Detailed Facility Report or Effluent Chart. We encourage you to use the Detailed Facility Report Help page and the Data Dictionary when you are examining facility data.

For more demonstrations, go to the Help menu at the top of the page and click ECHO Tutorials.

This concludes the demonstration. Thank you for your interest in using ECHO Detailed Facility Reports!