

STORET Reader

Connecting with data partners to inform and promote quality data management



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Fall/Winter 2007

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Welcome to the STORET Reader

Welcome! The STORET Reader is a newsletter featuring important information regarding STORET water quality data management. It is distributed biannually to provide open communication between the MPCA STORET team and data partners.

The MPCA STORET team is comprised of six members: Frank Kohlasch (Supervisor), Nancy Flandrick, Jean Garvin, Lynda Nelson, Miranda Nichols and Sandra Simbeck. Nancy, Jean, and Lynda manage the metadata submittals and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) data process. Sandra is responsible for MDH data entry, Volunteer Monitoring Data and filing. Miranda moves the external lab data results into the STORET database for analysis.

This issue can also be found online at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/storet.html>.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.



The STORET Team pictured clockwise, starting at top left: Miranda Nichols, Lynda Nelson, Nancy Flandrick, Sandra Simbeck, Frank Kohlasch, and Jean Garvin

If you have questions about STORET

Please contact the STORET team member based on your geographic location and lab choice for water analysis.

- ▶ Nancy Flandrick: St. Paul, Rochester and Mankato Regional Offices
651- 296-8385; nancy.flandrick@state.mn.us
- ▶ Jean Garvin: Willmar, Marshall and Detroit Lakes Regional Offices
651-296-9455; jean.garvin@state.mn.us
- ▶ Lynda Nelson: Duluth and Brainerd Regional Offices
651-296-7232; lynda.nelson@state.mn.us

Question of the quarter

Question: When I search the Environmental Data Access (EDA) Web site for a specific STORET monitoring station, why doesn't my station appear? I receive this response "we were unable to find any matches for your monitoring station search."

Answer: Established STORET stations only appear on EDA if the data for the station has been received and stored in STORET for the station. For more information or help with this issue, please contact one of the STORET team members.

Upcoming timeline for local and MPCA project managers

December 1, 2007:

Submit Project Data

Submit unstored data by December 1st for results to be included in all agency products.

December 15, 2007:

Begin Final Data Review Process

Project Managers with data requiring review will receive an e-mail on December 15th containing important guidelines to begin the final data review process.

January 15, 2008:

Complete Final Data Review Process

Notify the STORET Team by January 15th that the Final Data Review has been completed. Once the accuracy of the data has been verified, the hold will be removed, and the data will be included in all agency products.

February 1, 2008:

Submit Semi-Annual Report

Information regarding this process can be found at this link: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html>.

Changes

Out with the old, in with the new! The MPCA is in the early stages of planning the transition from STORET to a new data management system. This new system plan is to eventually store other types of data as well, i.e. biological, etc. We will keep you informed of our progress and opportunities for you to participate in the process through the STORET Reader.

Please continue to submit your data.

Our goal with the new system is to make the data more accessible to both internal and external parties. We will keep you updated as this process moves along.

The 2008 STORET Data Management Training for MPCA and Local Project Managers will now be available online after January 1, 2008, at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/storet.html>.

The Project, Station and Lab Establishment forms were revised this summer for clarity and consistency. Please check the following Web site to ensure you are using the correct forms <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/storet.html>.

Questions and helpful tips

If you have questions or helpful tips for the STORET Reader, please feel free to e-mail Sandra Simbeck at sandra.simbeck@state.mn.us. We welcome any feedback you may have regarding this newsletter. This publication can be made available in other formats, including Braille, large type, computer disk or audiotape, upon request. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please email the above address.

Totals

Members of the STORET team try to get project data into the STORET database within 20 days of submission. If the data takes longer than 20 days to get into STORET, this often means that the data or metadata is incomplete.

In 2006, out of 72 projects, the data for 40 projects were entered in less than 20 days (see graph below), the data for 20 projects were entered after 20 days, the data for four projects have been received but are not yet entered into STORET, and the data for eight projects have not been received.

This is a great improvement since we've started tracking the process in 2003 and a direct result of the implementation of the STORET data template and the streamlining of the metadata process.

2006 Projects Submitting Data into STORET

72 projects submitted 2006 data to the MPCA last year. The graph shows how these data made it into STORET.

