

Transcript for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Data Flow Tutorial with Accessible Instructions

This tutorial narration is spoken over a video recording capturing movement on-screen. Actions are described within brackets.

Introduction

ECHO data focuses on compliance and enforcement-related information for EPA-regulated facilities.

ECHO collects compliance and enforcement information from EPA as well as state, local, and tribal environmental agencies for environmental statutes - such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act - that are reported into EPA national databases. ECHO also incorporates other EPA environmental data sets to provide additional context for analyses and compiles them into a single database known as the ECHO Datamart.

This tutorial focuses on Resource Conservation and Recovery Act or RCRA data, specifically data related to the Hazardous Waste Program. It provides an overview of the RCRA reporting requirements and explains how compliance data are reported to EPA and how ECHO uses the data to derive the compliance history information displayed on the Detailed Facility Report [*An example Detailed Facility Report is displayed*].

Reporting to EPA

Authorized agencies (state, local, tribal, territorial, or commonwealth governments) and EPA report hazardous waste handler compliance information on a regular basis.

Agencies report this information manually through an online EPA form or share these data through an EPA-state data exchange system called the Central Data Exchange (CDX). Data are then stored in an EPA-owned national database known as RCRAInfo.

The information provided to EPA includes facility information, compliance monitoring activities, violation determinations, and enforcement activities. EPA compliance and enforcement activities also are reported.

EPA Processing

ECHO extracts RCRA compliance data on a weekly basis. Completeness and comparability checks are performed on the data extract. Following the completion of successful quality assurance (or QA) checks, the ECHO Datamart is refreshed with the updated data. Another set of QA checks are performed on the refreshed data, including web service comparisons, consistency checks, and quarter end-date checks. Data are mapped to a format to support display in the Detailed Facility Report on the ECHO website.

Note: ECHO displays the most recent data extraction date on the Compliance Summary Data Table [*The tutorial navigates to an example DFR page (<https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110000344814>). Using arrow keys, scroll down to the Compliance Summary Table and read the value in the Data Last Refreshed column*].

ECHO Using the Data

Now let's look at how the ECHO Datamart maps compliance data to create the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter table and the Enforcement and Compliance Summary table on the Detailed Facility Report [*Examples of the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter and Enforcement and Compliance Summary Tables are shown*].

First, ECHO identifies RCRA violations and their accompanying information including, violation type, violation description, reporting agency, determined date, and the return to compliance date. [*An example RCRAinfo Violations webpage is shown. Arrows are drawn and point to Description, Agency, Determined Date, and Return to Compliance Date columns in a table on the webpage*].

ECHO populates the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter table for a facility using the violation information including Statute, Violation Type, and Agency [*An example Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table is shown. Arrows are drawn and point to Statute, Violation Type, and Agency*].

The Determined Date and the Return to Compliance Date are placed in the quarters they occur, and arrows are placed in the in-between quarters to indicate that the facility continues to have a violation status from the Determined Date to the Return to Compliance Date. [*The Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table is shown. Arrows are drawn and point to Determined Date and Return to Compliance Date*].

If the Determined Date and the Return to Compliance Date occur in the same quarter, both dates are displayed in the cell [*The Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table is shown. An arrow is drawn and points to a cell in Quarter 3 that reads "04/11/2017-05/10/2017"*].

If there is no Return to Compliance Date reported for the violation, the arrows continue to the current quarter indicating that the violation has not been resolved in the data system. [*The Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table is shown. An arrow is drawn and points to a cell in Quarter 12 that displays a black arrow facing right*].

Next, ECHO uses the identified violations to update the Facility Level Status row.

Quarters containing a determined date are yellow and the facility-level status reads "Violation Identified". [*On the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table, quarters 1 and 11 are shaded yellow and read "Violation Identified"*].

Quarters with open violations are yellow and read "Violation". Quarters with no identified violations are blue and read "No Violation Identified" [*On the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table, quarters 2 and 3 are shaded yellow and read "Violation." Quarters 4-10 are shaded blue and read "No Violation Identified"*].

Next, ECHO identifies when the facility was designated as a Significant Noncomplier.

A facility may be a significant noncomplier if it:

- Has been determined to cause exposure or is likely to cause exposure;
- Is a chronic or recalcitrant violator; or
- Deviates substantially from the terms of a permit, order or agreement, or from RCRA statutory or regulatory requirements.

ECHO uses the RCRAInfo Evaluation List to identify the dates when a facility had significant noncomplier status. Evaluations labeled “SNY” (or Significant Noncomplier, Yes), indicate the start date of Significant Noncomplier status [An example RCRAInfo Evaluations webpage is shown. “SNY” is circled in the table].

Evaluations labeled “SNN” (or Significant Noncomplier, No), indicate the end date of Significant Noncomplier status. The SNN evaluation type is used to remove the significant noncomplier status when the status has been addressed with an enforcement action [An example RCRAInfo Evaluations webpage is shown. “SNN” is circled in the table].

ECHO uses the SNY and SNN evaluation start dates to update the facility level status for the appropriate quarters to indicate Significant Noncomplier duration.

In any quarter in which the site was a Significant Noncomplier, the facility-level status reads “Significant Noncomplier” and is red. [On the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table, quarters 1 through 8 have blue boxes that read “No Violation Identified.” Quarter 9 has a yellow box that reads “Violation Identified.” Quarters 10 through 12 have red boxes that read “Significant Noncomplier”].

Note that if a violation or significant noncomplier status exists at any time during a quarter then the entire quarter is displayed as in violation. In quarters with both violations and Significant Noncomplier status, the Facility Status will indicate Significant Noncomplier [On the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table, quarter 10 is circled].

Finally, ECHO updates the RCRA compliance status in the Enforcement and Compliance Summary table using the data in the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter table [A screenshot of the Enforcement and Compliance Summary is shown. The Compliance Status cell is red and reads “Significant Noncomplier”].

If the most recent quarter, quarter 12, has Significant Noncomplier status then the compliance status reads “Significant Noncomplier” and is colored red. [On the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table, quarters 10 through 12 have red boxes that read “Significant Noncomplier.” A screenshot of the accompanying Enforcement and Compliance Summary table is shown. Compliance Status has a red box that reads “Significant Noncomplier”].

If there is no Significant Noncomplier status in quarter 12, but there is a violation within quarter 12, the compliance status displays “Violation Identified” and is colored yellow [On the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table, quarter 12 has a yellow box that reads “Violation Identified.” The accompanying Enforcement and Compliance Summary table is shown. Compliance Status has a yellow box that reads “Violation Identified”].

If there is no Significant Noncomplier status or violation in quarter 12, the current compliance status reads “No Violation Identified” and is colored blue [On the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table, quarter 12 has a blue box that reads “No Violation Identified.” On the Enforcement and Compliance Summary, Compliance Status has a blue box that reads “No Violation Identified”].

Keep in mind that facilities may not be in violation for the entire quarter even though it might appear that way in this table. [An example of the Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter Table is shown].

For more detailed information, a monthly view of the Compliance History is available for the last three years on a rolling 12-month timeframe. [The top of the Detailed Facility Report page is displayed. In the Customize Report section, select “Monthly” option under “Compliance History Timeframe”. Using

arrow keys, scroll down to the Three-Year Compliance History by Month Table. Use the “Select Timeframe” bar to scroll horizontally to view additional months within the timeframe].

Additionally, an option is available to download the compliance history data as a csv file for further analysis [*Select the “Download Data” button at the top of the Three-Year Compliance History by Month Table and then “Download RCRA Compliance History” in the dialog box. An example of the csv file is shown].*

Conclusion

This tutorial explained the flow of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act data from initial reporting to display in ECHO. The techniques ECHO uses, including tables, colors, and dates, to display the data are meant to help users quickly and easily digest a large amount of information to gain a complete picture of a facility’s compliance over time.

For more information see the help documentation on the ECHO website and the ECHO tutorials page. [*Select the Help button located on most pages within ECHO and press Enter].*

Additional tutorials will explain the data flow for other regulations, including the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act [*Additional tutorials are available from <https://echo.epa.gov/help/tutorials>].*