

Short Data Explanation

North Carolina is currently experiencing issues affecting the upload of data to ICIS that may cause NPDES permitted facilities to erroneously be displayed in ECHO as being noncompliant for incomplete or deficient parameter reporting, or for failing to report data for entire outfalls. North Carolina is actively pursuing technical and programmatic solutions to resolve these problems. In the meantime, users are encouraged to contact the North Carolina Division of Water Resources to verify the compliance status of the state's permitted facilities prior to taking any action based upon their depiction in ECHO.

Detailed Data Explanation

North Carolina is experiencing problems achieving complete flow of information regarding NPDES permitted facilities from its Basinwide Information Management System (BIMS) to ICIS. Data issues primarily fall into the following categories:

Parameters With Multiple Units of Measurement

Uploads of data from BIMS to ICIS have experienced problems for parameters with data reported in both quantity and concentration units of measurement. Rejections can occur when uploads containing both sets of units are performed simultaneously, and data for one set of units can be overwritten and lost in the ICIS record when uploaded separately. This occurs most frequently in permits that require monitoring for BOD, TSS and/or nutrients, but may also occur with other parameters as well.

Missing Weekly or Monthly Average Data

As an element of accountability in the implementation of electronic reporting requirements, BIMS was initially programmed to calculate monthly averages of reported daily values upon receipt of a facility's discharge monitoring report. Weekly average values are calculated at a later point in the process. If the upload of data to ICIS occurs before the weekly average for a parameter is calculated, it will be seen as missing data in ICIS. Additionally, after weekly averages are calculated, they have at times been uploaded to ICIS without the associated monthly average value. The record in ICIS is overwritten, and the monthly average value will appear as missing. This circumstance has potential to affect all of NC's municipal permittees.

Missing Outfalls

Some NC facilities are erroneously depicted as having data missing for entire outfalls. This has occurred during the implementation of electronic reporting, mostly in the reporting for secondary outfalls and those representing instream monitoring. It was discovered that some original naming conventions for outfalls were not compatible with ICIS. Although facilities submitted data in electronic or paper form, there have been times when those data could not be uploaded to ICIS to be associated with particular outfalls.

North Carolina is working to resolve each of these situations, as well as respond to the more isolated incidences of data rejection that occur during the uploads of large amounts of data. These issues do not affect the quality of North Carolina's data within BIMS, but will affect the flow of data from BIMS to ICIS and the display of ICIS-generated violations in ECHO. Users are cautioned as to the reliability of the ECHO display. They may contact the NC Division of Water Resources' Compliance & Expedited Permitting Branch staff (<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/permitting-contacts>) to obtain an accurate compliance status for North Carolina's NPDES facilities.