



# Beneficial Use of NetDMR

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ASIWPCA 2009 Mid-Year Meeting  
March 3, 2009



# Topics

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- Background
- NetDMR Vision
- NetDMR Concept and Development
- Benefits of NetDMR
- Timeline of Progress
- NetDMR Connections and Configurations
- Demonstration



# DMR Background

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- Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) are a Federal requirement of the CWA NPDES program
- Primary means of determining NPDES compliance



# DMR Background

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- DMRs submitted by NPDES-permitted facilities
  - Contain self-monitoring data on the permit limits
  - Can be hundreds of values and pages for a large facility
  - EPA and States have been unable to take full advantage of DMR data, particularly at minor sources, because of high burden to enter data



# NetDMR Background

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- High volume of data using a standardized format creates an opportunity to move from paper DMR submission to a web-based submission
- A recent State/EPA Exchange Network study indicates that Electronic DMR reporting brings the highest return on investment of any other EPA data automation projects.



# NetDMR Background

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- Most states do not have the capability of accepting eDMRs
- Current State eDMR systems
  - Michigan, Florida, Texas, Illinois
- These states have provided proof of concept
- Problems:
  - High cost for all states to individually build their own systems
  - NetDMR project provides a standard, shareable, ICIS-NPDES compatible software tool that EPA will host (or States can elect to host)



# NetDMR Vision

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- Any facility regulated by a participating NetDMR state or by EPA will have the option of electronically reporting DMRs
- Original Goal: By 2010, almost all NPDES permitted facilities regulated by a participating NetDMR state or by EPA will submit their DMRs electronically
  - While ambitious, this goal may be possible by 2012



# NetDMR Concept

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- Regions and states that report to ICIS-NPDES will be eligible to use NetDMR
- NPDES-permitted facilities can electronically sign and submit DMRs via a secure internet site consistent with CROMERR
  - Electronic submission of DMRs is voluntary
  - Requiring electronic submission of DMRs when a permit is reissued is currently being considered by several states
- DMR data electronically submitted through EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX) transferred then into ICIS-NPDES



# Benefits of NetDMR

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- Highest Return on Investment of any EPA electronic reporting project
  - If all or most NPDES facilities submitted DMRs electronically, annual savings to industry, states, and EPA could be around \$100 million per year (estimated as average savings of \$1,000-\$2,000 per facility per year)

# Benefits of NetDMR

- Savings to States
  - Data Quality: Facility assumes control of getting data into ICIS
    - Removes possibility for data entry (key punch) mistakes by the permitting authority
    - Facility in control of reporting on time
  - Improves the program effectiveness/efficiency
  - Reduces data entry burden for State
  - Reduces State printing and mailing cost since no need to prepare and mail DMR pre-prints
  - Eliminates backlog of paper reports





# Benefits of NetDMR

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- NetDMR and Non-Major Facilities
  - Significant gaps were cited as a serious enforcement deficiency by the EPA Inspector General in August 2001
  - Resource constraints have limited states and EPA from manually entering all non-major DMRs into any database
  - NetDMR provides the resource for better management of compliance by non-majors



# Key Milestones

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- **March 2005** – EPA solicits grant proposals for electronic reporting after several successful state pilots (e.g. Michigan, Illinois).
- **September 2005** – A consortium of states, led by Texas, receives an EPA Network Exchange Grant to build the NetDMR software.
- **October 2006** – NetDMR Steering Committee formed.
- **October 2008** – Texas CEQ, the Environmental Commission of the states (ECOS), and other state partners complete work on NetDMR software and provide it to EPA for testing.
- **August 2008** – EPA requests that interested states and EPA Regions formally express interest in using NetDMR
- **November 2008** – Implementation kick-off meeting and workgroup formation.
- **February 2009** – EPA configuration and user acceptance testing.
- **June 2009** – EPA's Federal instance of NetDMR deployment planned



# NetDMR Reporting Process

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1. Facility applies to use NetDMR
2. Authorized agency approves application
3. Permittee enters the DMR data into the NetDMR application which sends the data to ICIS-NPDES via the Exchange Network
4. ICIS-NPDES automatically evaluates compliance against permit limits, generating a compliance status



# NetDMR Configuration Options

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## 1. Nationally-Hosted NetDMR

- EPA will deploy NetDMR with Regions and interested States

## 2. State-Hosted NetDMR

- States may also use and modify NetDMR code

# EPA Support

[www.epa.gov/netdmr](http://www.epa.gov/netdmr)

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the EPA NetDMR website. The browser title bar reads "NetDMR | US EPA - Windows Internet Explorer provided by EPA". The address bar shows the URL "http://www.epa.gov/netdmr/index.html". The website header includes the EPA logo and the text "U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY". The main content area features a search bar with "All EPA" selected and "This Area" as an option. Below the search bar, the text states: "NetDMR will, for the first time, provide a national tool for regulated Clean Water Act permittees to submit discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) electronically via a secure Internet application. In 2009, EPA will phase the project in for selected states that have requested to use this new tool." A sidebar on the left contains navigation links such as "NetDMR Home", "About NetDMR For States & Regions For Permittees", "Who Can Report?", "Subscribe to NetDMR Updates", "Frequent Questions", "Related Links", and "Contact Us". A "Quick Links" section provides links to "NetDMR Milestones", "Map of Participating States", "Workgroup Information", "Frequent Questions", and "Subscribe to Updates". The "News and Updates" section lists two items: "NetDMR implementation workgroups are currently working on deployment and administrative tasks. To learn about joining a workgroup, visit [NetDMR Implementation Workgroups](#)." and "The next NetDMR Coordination/Implementation Committee conference call will be held on February 3, 2009 from 3:00pm - 4:30pm EST." A photograph of a waterfall and a goose is also visible on the right side of the page.



# Questions?

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- For more information and questions, please contact...
  - States interested in using NetDMR:
    - Please contact Mike Barrette (Barrette.michael@epa.gov) & Allison Donohue (Donohue.allison@epa.gov)
  - Questions that are technical in nature:
    - Please contact Alison Kittle (Kittle.alison@epa.gov) & Nasrin Lescure (Lescure.nasrin@epa.gov)



# NetDMR Demonstration

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- Provided by Linda Diamond of ERG
  - Create an account and request signatory access
  - Approve a signatory request
  - View permits and users
  - Login, edit, sign, and submit a DMR
  - Access and view the copy of record (COR) for a submitted DMR