

Each year we look for opportunities to improve aspects of our data management.

(1) Season 2012 was the first year we have had the capability to do a real-time comparison of the static reports, i.e. using the state (incl. tribe, territory) and National Annual Report (AR) verified data, with the dynamic reports, fed by PRAWN data. We found and corrected inconsistencies in the way BEACH Act beaches (BAB) are counted, and monitored beaches are identified (see below). (Note: to be a BAB the beach must be in the state's List of Beaches subject to the state's monitoring and notification program for fecal indicator bacteria.)

(2) We encourage timely submissions of post-verification corrections to PRAWN, so that the dynamic reports remain accurate.

(3) In 2013 EPA stopped making manual corrections to annually reoccurring data submission errors. You will need to effect these changes through your data submissions to PRAWN. e.g.:

(i) Merging sequential and overlapping actions (e.g., wait to submit until activities end, and then only "send to EPA" a merged activity (ref: Notification User Guide, December 2011 edition [NUG] pp 34-35).

(ii) Recalculating durations (e.g. enter Activity Actual Stop Date as last day beach use affected, even if lifted on the next day, but prior to beach opening) see also (4)(xii) next page

(iii) Avoid submitting duplicate actions/advisories which still need to be removed by CGI (ref. NUG p 89; and Corrections User Guide p.17).see also (4)(xi) next page

In the coming months we will continue to work individually with those states which have instances of these and other items.

a. "Beach Accessibility Type" – beaches described as "Private Beach with Private Access" (NUG p. 23) that are **not** also flagged as "BEACH Act Beaches" (NUG p. 30) will no longer be included, as they do not fit the definition of a beach "used by the public" under the BEACH Act. We will designate them as "historic," which means their existing data can be queried in BEACON but they do not show by default and cannot be updated. Please remove them from your submissions to EPA, and coordinate with your Regional coordinator to tell us which Beach IDs to make "historic". See also (4)(iii)

b. "Swim Season Monitoring Frequency" (NUG p. 27) – beaches that have a value greater than zero for this data element are counted as monitored in dynamic reports. The "Monitored Irregularly Indicator" (NUG p. 28) value will no longer be used to identify monitored beaches. However, beaches, that at the beginning of the season were "not monitored" but then submit water quality data, with or without associated advisories, should **have their** zero values for Monitoring Frequency **changed** in PRAWN for at least that season.

c. Beaches at federal facilities are no longer included (to the extent we could identify them). Federal beaches will not be counted toward the total number of beaches in the state in which they are located. Please remove them from your submissions to EPA, and coordinate with your Regional coordinator to tell us which Beach IDs to make "historic". Federal agencies should report their own data to EPA.

d. Some states may have received unique beach ID's for beach segments and then requested that they be grouped under the beach name recognized by the public; or grouped individual beaches under a "group id." We have ended this manual adjustment; they should be designated as non-BABs. Note that Beach IDs are for unique beaches or beach segments only. We recommend a one beach segment to one beach ID to one monitoring station relationship. If a state decides that a Beach ID was issued to what is not a unique BAB or "other point of access," or is really a monitoring location, they should coordinate with their Regional Coordinator and request that EPA make the Beach ID "historic." Monitoring station names, their station IDs and location data should be created in WQX/STORET.

e. States will need to determine how they want their beaches to be listed by beach name (we recommend by county or town and then by beach name so they sort geographically (e.g., not all "15th Street Beaches" listed together from multiple counties); that way they will list consistently in dynamic and static reports.

After making these corrections, there will still be a number of small inconsistencies that will self-correct when a state resubmits verified data to PRAWN. There will also be ongoing differences as beaches are added, merged, split and made historic; and as beach attributes change during the year. We encourage you to resubmit as soon

as possible any verified data and to coordinate with your Regional Coordinator and request changes to BAB beach status during the year. Note “dormant” beaches are counted in the dynamic reports

(4) Notes on Data Elements (ref. NUG, December 2011 edition)

- (i) “State Contact ...” (pp.12-13) 5 new data elements added in 2012, PRAWN submissions are able to update the EPA webpage at: <http://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/beamon2/f?p=beamon2:50:13643729661115:::>
- (ii) “Water Body Name/type Codes” (pp.22/82) Note: for non-Great Lakes “states”: do not send “INLAND” beaches to EPA (they are not BEACH Act beaches). For BEACON “Great Waterbody” queries to work (e.g., Great Lakes), the waterbody name must be entered, e.g. LAKE_MCHGN)
- (iii) “Beach Accessibility Type” (p.23) note: if PRV_PRV_ACC, then BAB (p.30) must be “Y” or do not send to EPA, and coordinate with Regional Coordinator and request that EPA to set status to “Historical”
- (iv) “Beach Season Length” (p.26). You have the option of only providing the length in days. However, length will be calculated if only start and end dates are provided (the dates do not show in BEACON), so if you do not enter the “start” and “end” dates, we assume Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends.) If “Dormant”, (p.30) set “Beach Season Length” to zero.
- (v) “Monitored Irregularly” (p.28). Set to “N” if monitored regularly or not monitored
- (vi) “Beach Pollution Source code (p.29) if “uninvestigated” should set to “UNKNOWN”
- (vii) “Beach Dormant Indicator” (p.30) set to “Y” if at least not managed to report actions for at least a season, but if expected to be unmanaged for two seasons or more request EPA to set status to “Historical”
- (viii) “Reporting Frequency” (p.30) Note this is the frequency for reporting Notification actions
- (ix) “Indicator Name ... Measure Unit Code” (pp.31-32) 5 new data elements added in 2012
- (x) “Criterion Comment” (p.32), Beach Action Value (BAV) **and Beach Notification Threshold (BNT)** may be selected this in this data element field, comments added and/or enter the URL to a document that explains the local advisory and closure action decision procedures.
- (xi) Changing an activity record - avoid creating duplicate entries - (Introduction to 3.1.5, p.33) Beach activity information can only be added to an existing activity record by the external submitter. To remove (or remove before replacing) information, you need to request CGI to remove the information first. (NUG p.89 and Corrections User Guide p.17) Only completed activities should be submitted, but note that an end date placeholder may be used (p.35) and if an activity is continuous from one calendar year to the next, the activity needs to be split, ending at December 31st and beginning as another activity on January 1st.(FAQ # 17).
- (xii) “Actual Stop Date” (p.35) Note if the action shows an end date on the same day (e.g. 8 AM) before the beach opens (e.g. 9 AM) the duration will appear to be a day too long. The beach use is not affected that day but the date shows as if it is. The solution is to use the last day beach use is effected in the action description as the “Actual Stop Date” (i.e. in the example, the previous day).
- (xiii) “Beach Role Person Identifier” (p.42) a new domain value added in 2012, used to identify a person as the PUBLIC CONTACT for the beach in the BEACON Beach Profile Report.

(5) PRAWN Notification Submission Corrections User Guide (October 01, 2008) (PDF)

Page 3, note: For questions regarding:

Monitoring Access Database – Beaches Support (ebeaches@cgifederal.com), 276-889-8659 or 337-344-5429; or Monitoring error messages on XML schema validation, WQX, and STORET at: STORET/WQX Helpdesk (STORET@epa.gov); 800-424-9067

(6) eBEACHES Location Data SOP (Revised 9/2014) (PDF) section §3(a) contact: OW Support (ebeaches@induscorp.com)

(7). STORET Warehouse Download Document updated. The document How to Query and Download Data provides step by step instructions on how to generate, download, export (to Microsoft Excel or Access), and analyze a data query from the STORET Data Warehouse. http://www.epa.gov/storet/dw_home.html