AQS Tactical Plans

Planned changes for 2014 - 2015

Authentication

- Presently, AQS users need two user-ids and passwords to submit data – an AQS ID and an Exchange Network ID.

- The EPA National Computer Center software for managing AQS IDs is being discontinued in the Fall of 2014.

- AQS will switch to using Exchange Network IDs for access to the AQS application.

- Users with existing Exchange Net IDs will keep them and users without them will be registered for them.

Oracle Discoverer

- Discoverer is the tool that allows AQS users to construct ad-hoc queries against the AQS database.
- Oracle has already dropped support for Discoverer.
- Replacement plans are as follows (Sept. 30, 2014):
  - The AQS Federal Team will construct a set of "views" that correspond to each type of data in AQS, i.e. Sites and monitors, raw data, summary data, and QA data. Each view will contain all of the site and monitor metadata pertinent to the information provided by the view.
  - Federal users (inside the EPA firewall) will utilize off-the-shelf tools, such as TOAD, to directly access these views.
  - A web application will be developed (under AirData) to allow users outside the EPA firewall to query data from these views.
  - Third-party tools, such as SAS or Excel, will be used for analysis.
  - The views will be enhanced as needed.

PM 10 Site Combination

- Presently AQS calculates statistics for PM 10 at the monitor level, but EPA calculates design values for "monitoring sites".

- The plan is to configure AQS to allow site-level design values to be computed for PM 10 like PM 2.5. Plan:
  - Work with Regions and submitting agencies to determine Primary monitor at each PM 10 site.
  - Configure PM 10 in AQS as "combinable"
  - AQS Federal team will initially load all primary monitor designations based on above feedback.
  - Calculate all site-level design values

Batch Monitor Changes

- Presently, AQS does not allow most monitor metadata changes in Batch, because each transaction is processed separately.

- AQS will be enhanced to allow these changes.

  - AQS will process all transactions for a monitor before verifying that the set of changes is valid. If they are, they will be committed, if not, they will all be rolled back and an error reported.

Card-Image Transactions Dropped

- Support for the 80-character SAROAD card-image transaction format will be dropped in September 2014.

- We have posted a program on the AQS TTN website to convert these transactions to delimited format. URL:

- http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/downloads.htm

Agency Based Access Control

- AQS will be switching from using Screening Groups to determine access to Site and Monitor data to using the Agency Roles assigned to Sites and Monitors.

- Support for Agency Role access is already in place for QA transactions and Certification.

- Support for access to all other types of data in AQS planned for FY-15.

- After it is implemented for all other types of data, support for Screening Groups will be dropped.

Seasonal Sampling

- Presently, only Ozone and PM samplers are allowed to operate seasonally.

- AQS will be enhanced to allows this for all parameters, by use of the Monitor Required Collection Frequency.

- Months where no sampling should occur would have a '0' loaded for the collection frequency'

Multiple Files in Zip

- Presently, AQS only allows one file to be included in the zip archive that is submitted to AQS from the Exchange Network.

- AQS will be enhanced to allow multiple files to be submitted at the same time.

  – The plan is that each file in the zip archive will be processed by a separate AQS LOAD session.

Longer Term Plans

- Improve AQS Data Screening
- Update AQS geopolitical data to latest Census Bureau values
- Integrate AQS on-line help with User Guide
- Replacement for Oracle Forms and Reports user interface
- Support for graphical output