

EPA OSWER Data Management: Current Efforts and Issues

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Data management at the site level has historically been decentralized within EPA's clean-up programs. While programmatic information such as project management, funding, and congressional standards are nationally reported and stored in systems such as CERCLIS, site-specific data management is delegated to the regions. Those making the decisions at the site are faced with the challenge of collecting, managing, reviewing, analyzing and storing this information. As a result, site data is widely dispersed across the agency in different locations ranging from EPA systems to contractor databases, in varying physical formats (hard copy, scanned reports, electronic packages), and in a wide range of reporting formats.

In recent years, newer tools and approaches leading toward more centralized information management have been explored. This presentation will discuss several efforts at EPA regional and HQ offices for data collection and management. It will also highlight some of the pivotal issues which EPA faces to develop a comprehensive strategy for data management.