

Electronic Data Capture

Region 4, SESD



Background

- The legacy systems for moving information to and from the lab were inadequate
 - These systems were developed and functioned independent of one another
- In addition, the Region had no method for storing\retrieving environmental data electronically



Storing And Retrieving Data

- EQuIS (a commercially available Oracle database) was chosen
- While EQuIS is an excellent system for storing and reporting data, it does not provide a mechanism for tracking pending datasets, or provide error reports for these pending datasets



Tracking System

- An automated tracking system was developed to monitor EQuIS and the server based legacy systems
- This system checks the quality of the pending datasets at every step and sends status reports as needed



Legacy Systems

- Region 4 Project Log (server based)
 - Request for lab space made to SESD
- FORMS II Lite (standalone)
 - Samples collected\COC sent
- Element (server based)
 - LIMS reports data in .pdf format



Current System

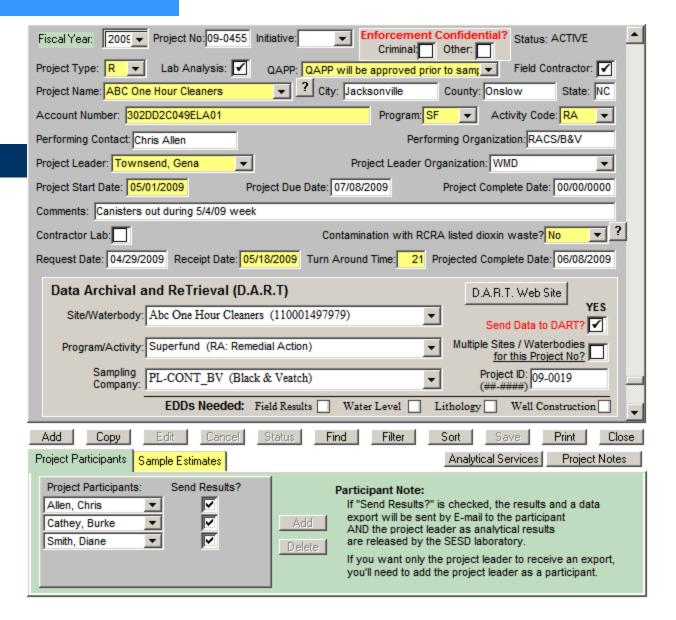
- Project Log is used to request lab space:
 - Tracking System emails report with site\project data
- FORMS\Scribe used to generate COC:
 - Samplers send FORMS\Scribe .xml file to lab
- Element reports data in .pdf format
 - EDD files sent to EQuIS
 - Tracking System sends errors\data reports to sampler



Region 4 Project Log

- In-house software to track lab requests
- After the request is made, the Tracking System sends a summary report:
 - Project metadata for FORMS\Scribe
 - A summary of requested samples\media\analyses
 - a table of existing Station IDs and coordinates







Region 4 Project Log Feedback

FORMS\Scribe setup data

Project Log Summary Report:

Use information in the table below to create your site in FORMS II Lite (step one). If you used the DARTER utility to update FORMS, the screen labels in step one will match the table.

Anything 'Missing' should be corrected before going to the field.

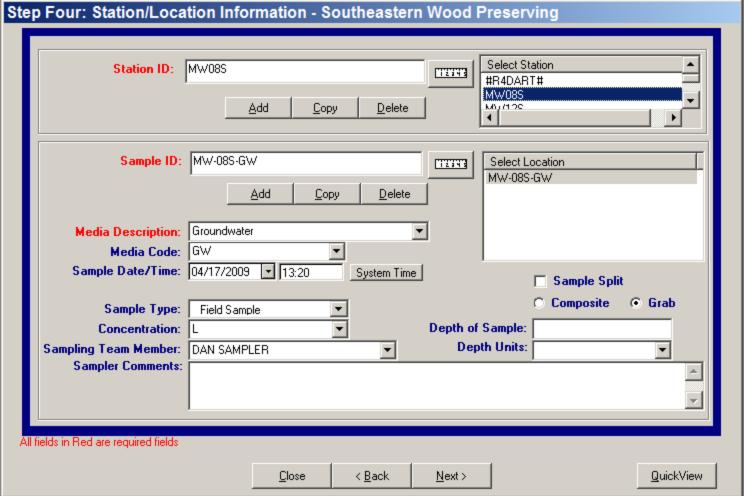
FORMS II Lite//DART Info						
Site\Waterbody	FORMER WEST FLORIDA SCRAP METAL					
Site Name	Former West Florida Scrap Metal					
State	FL					
Project Number	08-0356					
DART ID	08-0356					
Program	PASI					
Project Leader	Schuster, Barbara					
Sampling Company	PL-FDEP					

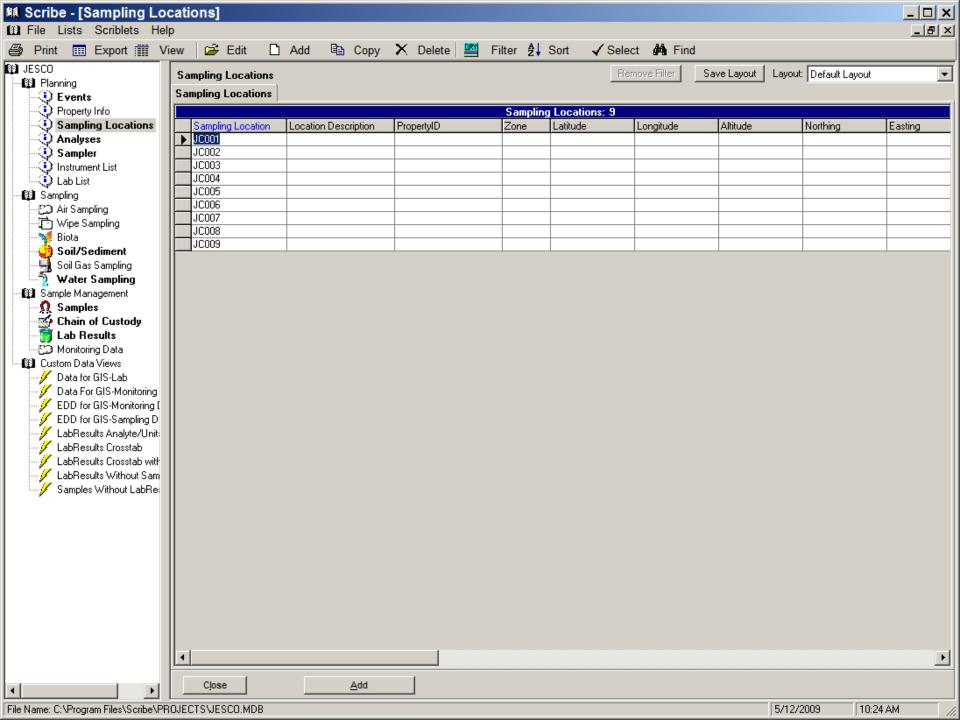


COC Data In Region 4

- Using FORMS (or Scribe) a .xml file is sent to SESD.
- This information is loaded directly to Element (Region 4 LIMS)
 - Fewer transcription errors
 - Much quicker









Error Summaries

 After the samples are logged to the LIMS, any errors are highlighted in reports sent out the next Monday

DART Error Summary Report: Chain of Custody

If there are any errors in the Station IDs or Media Codes listed below, make your corrections in the 'Edited' column(s) and forward this email to R4DART@epa.gov,. You should receive another email the following Monday with a new Location EDD file attached containing your corrections.

(No need to request a re-report of the data)

DART Information From Chain of Custody							
Lab Sample ID	StationID		Field Sample ID	Media Code			
-	Original	Edited	-	<u>Original</u>	Edited		
R4-C081806-01	-	-	CTS-211-TW	TW (Trip Blank - Water)	-		
R4-C081806-02	-	-	CTS-213-PB	PB (Preservative Blank)	-		
R4-C081806-03	Missing	-	CTS-005-SW	SW (Surface Water)	-		
R4-C081806-04	Missing	-	CTS-001-PW	PW (Potable Water)	-		
R4-C081806-05	Missing	-	CTS-020-PW	PW (Potable Water)	-		



Location EDD Request

- After any LIMS errors are corrected, the Tracking System will request any missing coordinates
 - The Station IDs in Element are compared to EQuIS
 - The report requests only those that are missing in EQuIS

DART Error Summary Report: Location EDD Status

Location EDD: Missing

The Station IDs listed below were submitted with your Traffic Report, and are in the attached file (08-0459-LocationEDD.csv). If any are incorrect, please correct them as explained below in 'Element Dataset Error Summary Report: Chain of Custody':

MW34D, MW35D, MW36D,

No errors were found in this dataset. The data can be loaded when the Location EDD is sent to R4DART@epa.gov (as outlined below).



Coordinates – The Location EDD

- The Location EDD is the Region 4 format for providing coordinates
- The data provider can create this file by:
 - Using the 'stub' file provided with the requesting email
 - Reporting from FORMS\Scribe
 - Utilizing EDP (error checking software from EarthSoft)



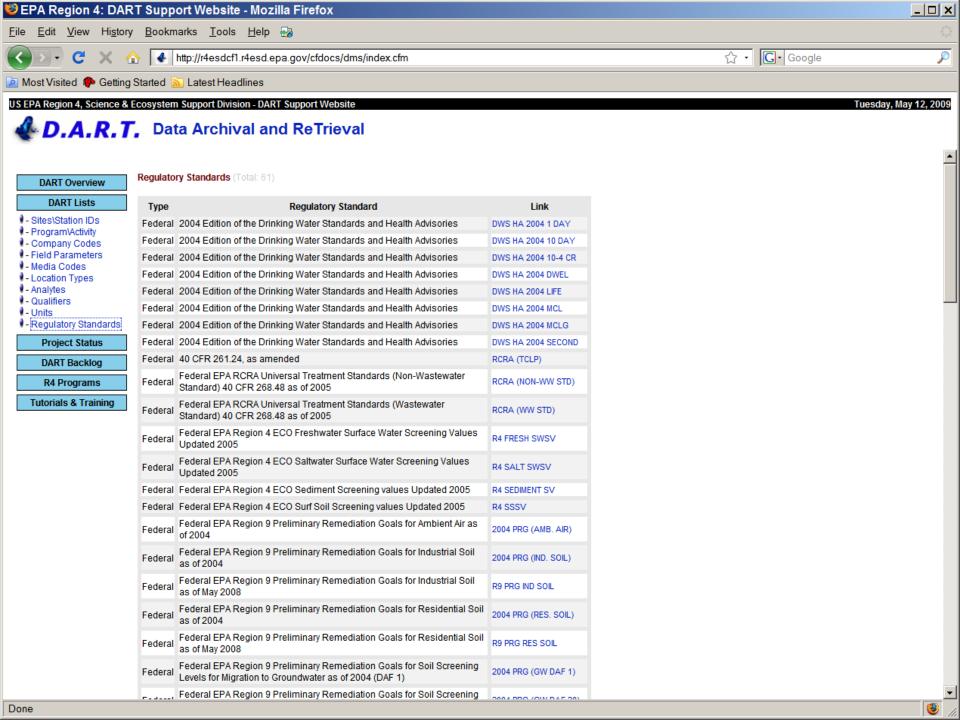
Current Status

- All EPA led projects in Region 4 utilizing the SESD lab or CLP are sent to EQuIS:
 - Superfund, Air, Water, RCRA, UST, Brownfields, etc.
- Samples from all media are captured:
 - Groundwater, tissue, waste, soil, sediment, etc.
- Field Measurement Data:
 - pH, Temperature, Conductivity, Turbidity, etc.



Current Status

- 947,468 analytical results
- 54,829 analyses
- 18,350 samples
- 7,214 sampling locations
- 445 sites or waterbodies
- 61 regulatory standards or guidelines





Unexpected Roadblocks

- Communicating effectively across several government and corporate email systems has been a challenge
- While it was understood up front that training was necessary, this has also proved difficult across the various government and corporate organizations



Up Next

- It is the intent of Region 4 to begin loading data from PRPs to the EQuIS system
- In addition, the current system will be expanded to collect the following data:
 - Water levels
 - Geology
 - Ecological



This Is A Lot Of Work...

- So what is the return?
 - EQuIS allows data collected across programs and time to be compared to regulatory standards
 - EQuIS allows data to be output to GoogleEarth,
 ArcMap, Surfer, Excel, SAS, RockWorks, LogPlot, etc.
 - The EQuIS database is a permanent Oracle based archive
 - EQuIS can run as a sophisticated desktop application, or as a web application across the enterprise

