Exchange Network Forum

Partnerships with EPA, States, Tribes & Territories

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Format

- **This Forum is an open meeting.** We want to encourage open dialogue. Please be respectful.

- **You will hear from Tribes, States, and EPA.** Calls are divided into thirds, with time for each group to push updates and request feedback.

- **We will send polls, surveys to gauge interests.** This is a call run by Exchange Network partners for Exchange Network partners.
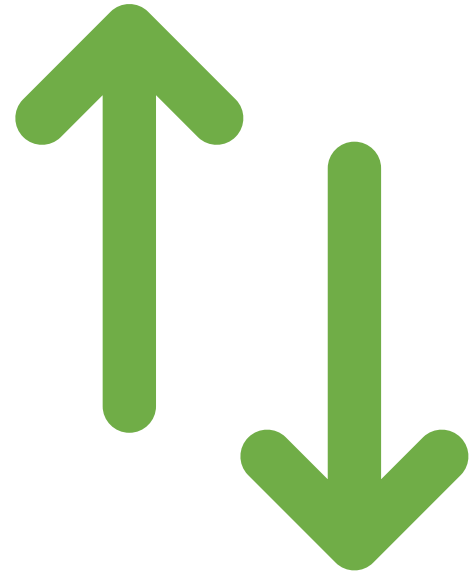
Logistics

- **Introduce yourself!** If or when you speak, please tell us your name the organization you represent.

- **Submit questions in the Microsoft Teams chat.** You are also welcome to message the meeting host directly.

Meeting Guidelines

- **Choose to be present and participate**

- **Engage actively, raise your hand to speak**

- **Maintain a respectful, open space to share and discuss ideas**

- **Assume positive intent**

- **Be curious and open to new ideas**

- **Listen and question with a desire to understand**

- **Stay on topic**

- **Turn on your camera when speaking**

- **Meetings will be recorded**

Agenda

- **Welcome from OIM**

- **Exchange Network Grants Updates**

- **Virtual Exchange Services (VES) and What's Next**

- **Open Forum, Questions**

Welcome!

- **The Exchange Network (EN) Reinvigoration is moving forward, aligned with updated Agency priorities.** Please reach out, we're here for support!

- **EN Grants are open and active.** Access information on the EN Grants.

EN Grants

- **FY24 Award Cycle.** Some HQ assistance agreements from FY24 have not yet been awarded. Impacted (future) grantees were informed last week. EN grant staff will be working directly with these (future) grantees.

- **FY25 Deadline Extended.** The application deadline for the FY25 EN Grants was extended until at least Wednesday, April 30th, 2025 to allow for revisions in accordance with updated Agency priorities.

Virtual Exchange Services (VES)

4/10/2025

Environmental Information
eXchange Network

Virtual Exchange Service (VES)

- Released in 2015

- What is it?
  - A centralized solution that replaces the need for Exchange Network (EN) partners to install and administer their own node.

- Purpose
  - Standardize and streamline sharing of regulatory data between EPA and partners.

- Complies with EN protocol

- Supports a subset of current EN dataflows

Overview of VES

- List of existing data flows in VES
- 32 Prod nodes and 79 Test nodes
- 15 active VES partners

- Region 1
- Alabama
- Arizona: Maricopa County Air Quality Department
- Arizona: Pinal County Information Technology
- Georgia
- Colorado
- Maine
- New Hampshire

- Oregon
- South Dakota
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
- Texas
- Wyoming
- Gila River Indian Community (Test only)
- Delaware (Test only)

Data Flow	Services
AQS	36
ATTAINS	21
AWQMS	5
EIS	54
FACID	44
GenEmWater	1
ICIS-Air	621
ICISDA	3
ICIS-NPDES	507
OpenDump	9
Radon	3
RCRA	50
SPCC	3
STORM3	4
TRI	3
UST	1
WQX	12

Current Usage (FY22 – Present)

Dataflows with the most usage

Dataflow	Production Transactions
ICIS-Air	60,929
ICIS-NPDES	24,826
ICISDA	6,958
RCRA	2,304
TRI	465
EIS	350
STORM3	338
ATTAINS	302
FACID	167

Partners with the most usage

Partner	Production Transactions
South Dakota	53,395
Maine	20,261
Texas	8,446
Georgia	4,619
San Joaquin Valley Air	2,537
Arizona Maricopa County	1,923
Colorado	1,643
Oregon	1,453

Recent Upgrades

- Bringing VES into compliance with security mandates
  - October 2024
    - Middleware Refactoring (*Existing partners may be impacted*)
    - TLS 1.0 and 1.1 Support Removal
    - Separated Test and Production environments
  - March 2025
    - Updated VES Connector to better support partners with specialized database environments, such as Oracle RAC, and streamline the flow of information between VES and the partner-hosted remote databases.

Challenges of using VES

- VES connector installation for remote-hosted partners

- Supporting large data sets

- Historical VES services were configured incorrectly and caused data source connectivity issues

- XML Schema versions published to the Exchange Network (EN) that VES has not been updated to support

- Unsigned executable files

- **Please reach out to CDX team for other alternatives/options if VES doesn't meet your business needs**

VES Support

<u>EPA will continue to:</u>

- Support VES administrative accounts
- Investigate VES logs and provide more details on errors reported by users
- Troubleshoot service configuration
- Provide support files and update when necessary
- Ensure our VES components are online and available
- Provisioning new VES partners and dataflows
- Verifying the reason for failure or pending transactions on the backend
- Maximum 5 hours to troubleshooting for the remote-hosted partners
- The maximum data transition we have seen is up to 175MB

<u>EPA will NOT</u>

- Develop new dataflow in VES

- Provide VES connector installation support for remote-hosted partners beyond our provided instructions

VES Support

- New email address: **nodehelpdesk@epa.gov**

- More Information: https://exchangenetwork.net/ virtual-exchange-service/

- Help Desk: 888.890.1995

- Please update references to Node Helpdesk email in documentation and applications

- We will forward nodehelpdesk@epacdx.net to nodehelpdesk@epa.gov

- We will stop monitoring the nodehelpdesk@epacdx.net email on May 31, 2026

Open Forum

- **Questions?**

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Thank you!

Questions?