



# NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule 40 CFR 127



**CWA-NPDES**  
electronic reporting

2017 National NPDES Program Managers Meeting  
31 October 2017

# Regulatory Action



- The NPDES eRule was developed in close coordination with the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and the Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA). The final rule was published on 22 October 2015.
- It requires that NPDES regulated entities electronically submit the following permit and compliance monitoring information:
  - Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs)
  - Notices of Intent to discharge in compliance with a general permit; and
  - Program reports.
- The rule does not increase the amount of information NPDES regulated facilities are required to submit.
- It also requires that authorized NPDES programs electronically submit NPDES program data to EPA.

# Goals of the Rulemaking



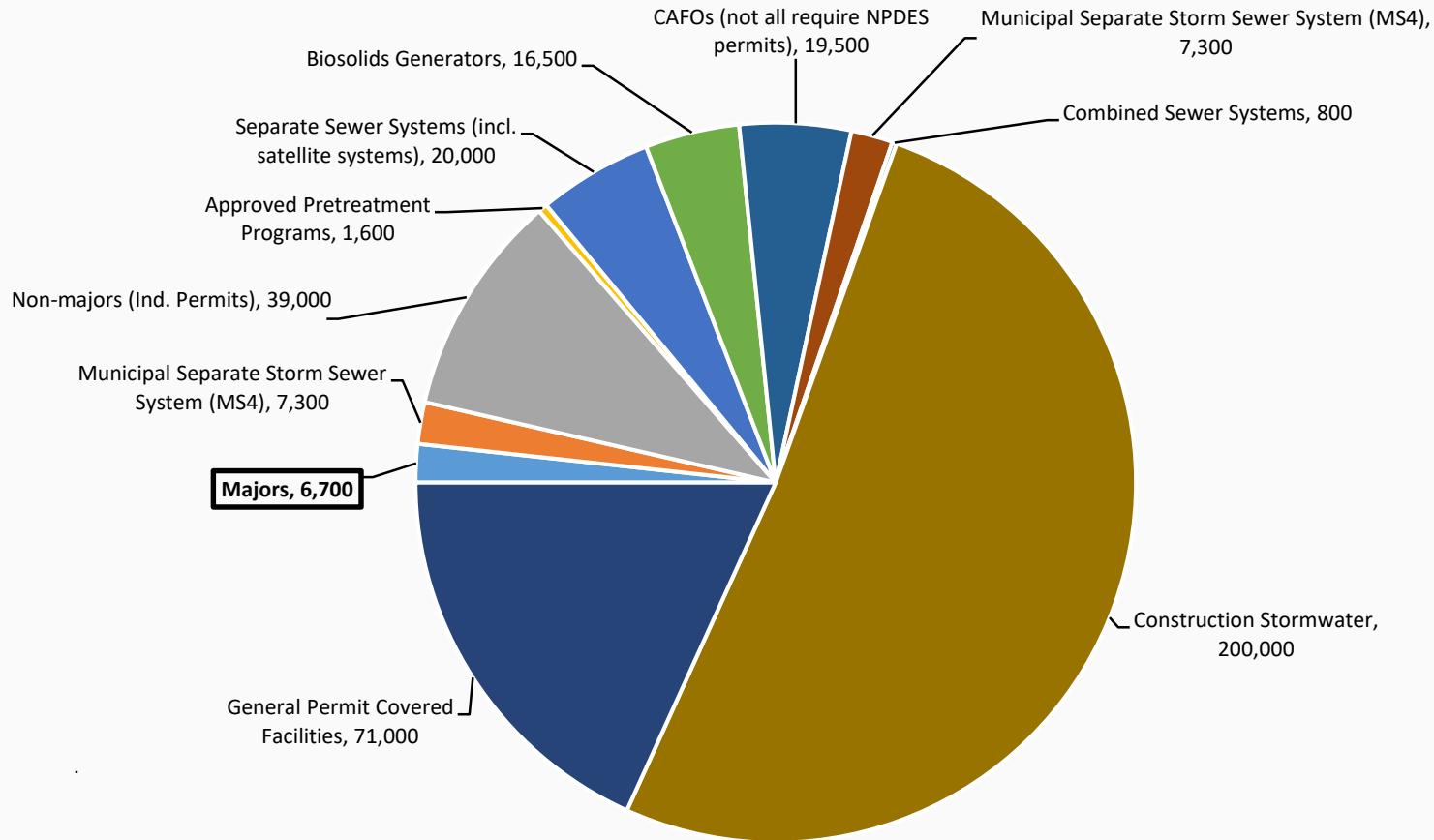
This final rule helps EPA and states clean up the nation's waters by:

- Shifting from paper to electronic reporting.
- Saving time and resources for the regulated community and for states that can be shifted to other program areas.
- Improving transparency, which serves to elevate the importance of data and environmental performance.
- Using technology to obtain more accurate, timely, complete, and consistent information about the NPDES program.



Pretreatment Program Annual Reports in one EPA Region (Region 9, 2009)

# Scope of NPDES eRule: NPDES-Regulated Entities



**Note:** This graph covers all discharge sources except for significant industrial users not under an approved pretreatment program and dischargers operating under general permits for discharges from vessels and discharges from pesticide applicators. General permit covered facilities category also counts facilities included in other categories (e.g., CAFOs).

# Achieving Goals



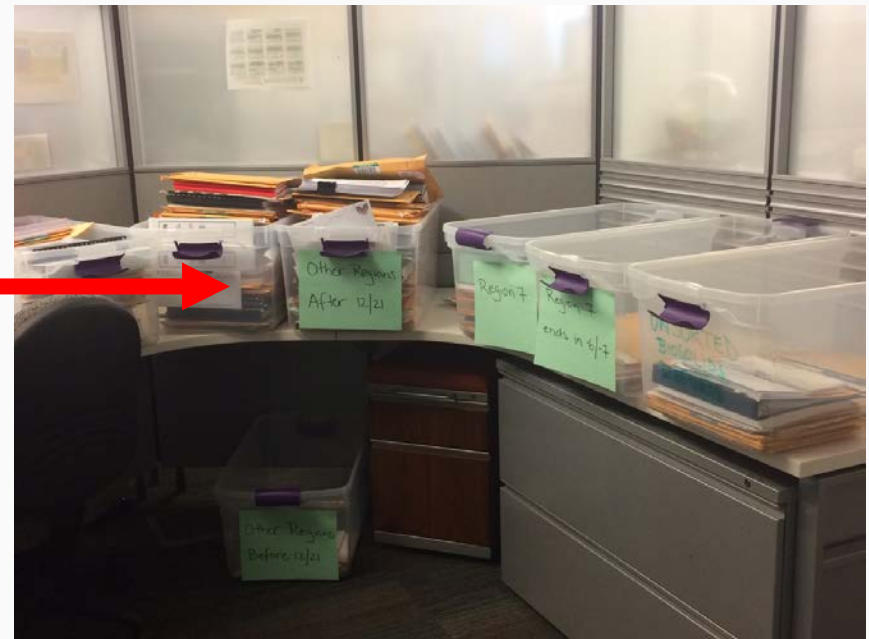
## Federal Biosolids Annual Reports (EPA Biosolids Center of Excellence, Region 7)



2014

Before Electronic Reporting  
(Approximately 2,400 paper submissions)

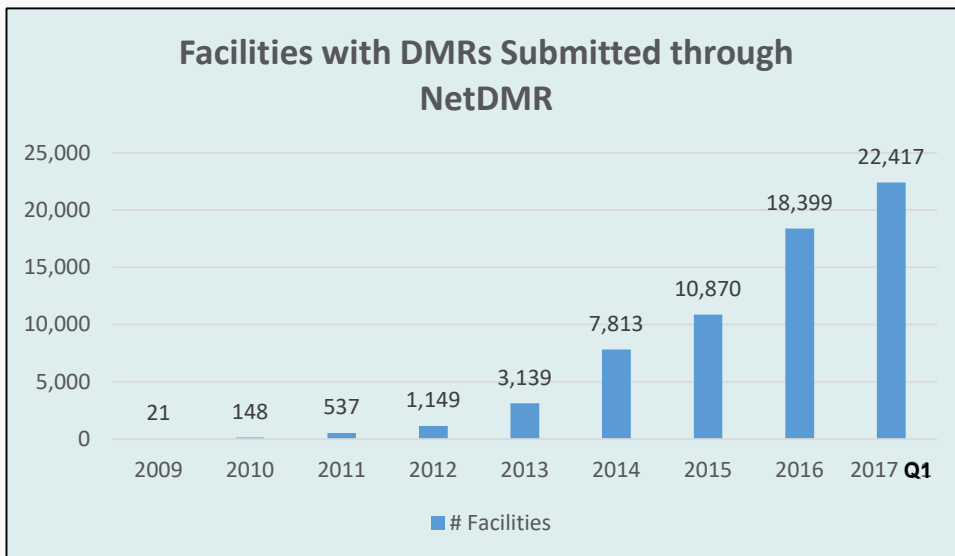
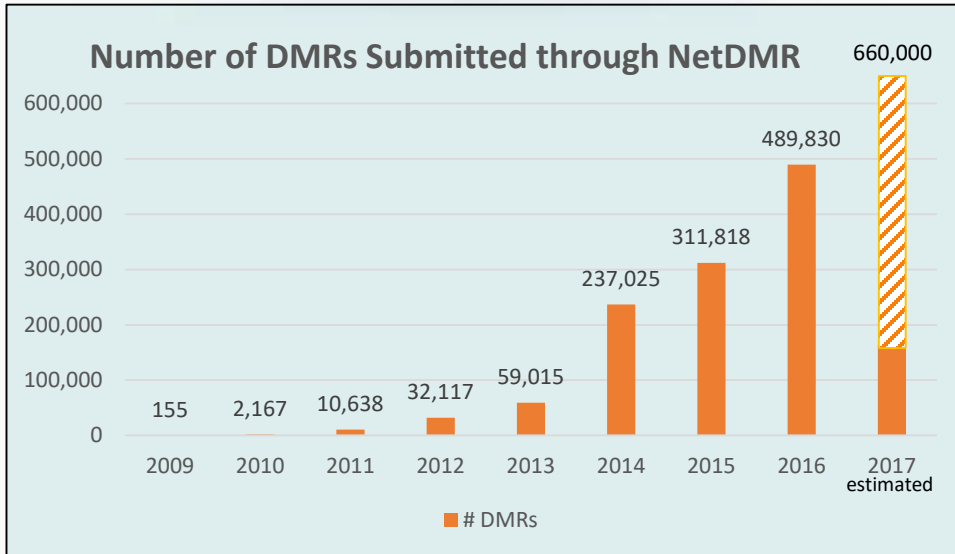
**Results!**



2017

1<sup>st</sup> Year of Electronic Reporting  
(2,183 electronic submissions with  
640 paper submissions).

# Achieving Goals



- There is a dramatic increase in the use of NetDMR since promulgation of the 2015 NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule.
- This trend will continue as more and more facilities are trained and registered with NetDMR.
- States are also making tremendous progress in transitioning DMR filers to state electronic reporting tools.



# Tracking Implementation



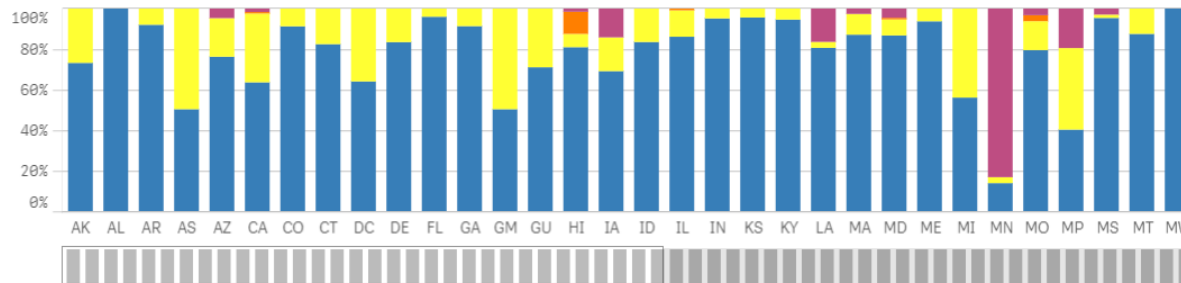
## Working Goal: 90% Permit Limit Completeness Rate

■ Permit Limits Not in ICIS 
 ■ DMR Tracking "Off" 
 ■ Unresolved DMRs 
 ■ DMR Ready

⏪ ⏩ 🔍 No selections applied

### NPDES eRule Readiness and Data Completeness Dashboard

Percentage of Permits in Evaluation Categories by State



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Number of Permits in Selection

40.39k

Per... State	DMR Ready	Unresolved DMRs	Tracking Off	Permit Limits Not in ICIS
Total	30751	4859	386	4397
AK	48	18	0	0

- Released in ECHO Gov for state use in Nov 2016.
- Gives states and Regions opportunity to review, comment, and qualify.

# NPDES eRule Implementation



- The eRule includes two phases over a five-year period (Dec 2015 – Dec 2020).
- Phase 1: Dec 2015 to Dec 2016, includes:
  - DMRs and the Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Report (in 42 states where EPA implements the Federal Biosolids Program) from permittees
  - Facility/Permit Data, inspections, violation determination, and enforcement actions from authorized agencies
- Phase 2: Dec 2016 to Dec 2020, includes:
  - Begin electronically collecting remaining set of NPDES program information (e.g., general permit reports, CAFO Annual Program Reports, MS4 Reports, Pretreatment Program Reports, Sewer Overflow/Bypass Events Reports)
  - Each authorized state agency submitted a Phase 2 implementation plan to EPA for review and comment.



# Phase 2 Implementation



- EPA received Phase 2 Implementation Plans (IPs) from all states. Thank you! We provided comments and will post the final plans on our website ([www.epa.gov/compliance/npdes-ereporting](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/npdes-ereporting)) as discussed in the preamble to the final rule.
- EPA used the Phase 2 IPs to identify states that would like to use EPA's electronic reporting tools (NetDMR, NeT). EPA is working closely with these states to deploy electronic general permit forms and program reports in a staggered fashion.
- EPA is using web-services to deploy these forms along with a strong commitment to outreach and training resources.

# Continuous Collaboration with Authorized Agencies



- EPA and states are collaborating via technical workgroups to define the reference values, business rules, and other data standards for the minimum set of NPDES program data (Appendix A to 40 CFR 127).
- Current or planned workgroups include:
  - Pretreatment Program (started March 2017, close to completion)
  - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (started March 2017, close to completion)
  - NPDES general permits (started June 2017, will be on-going through Phase 2 implementation).
  - CWA Section 316(a) & (b) (November 2017)
  - Construction, Industrial, and Urban Stormwater (November 2017)
- Past workgroups that met their objectives include:
  - Biosolids (March – August 2016)
  - Sewer Overflows and POTW-specific Data (September 2016 – February 2017)
  - Core NPDES Tracking Data (December 2016 – February 2017)

The output from these workgroups are implementation guides that are being posted on the **NPDES eReporting public website** after final EPA and state review.

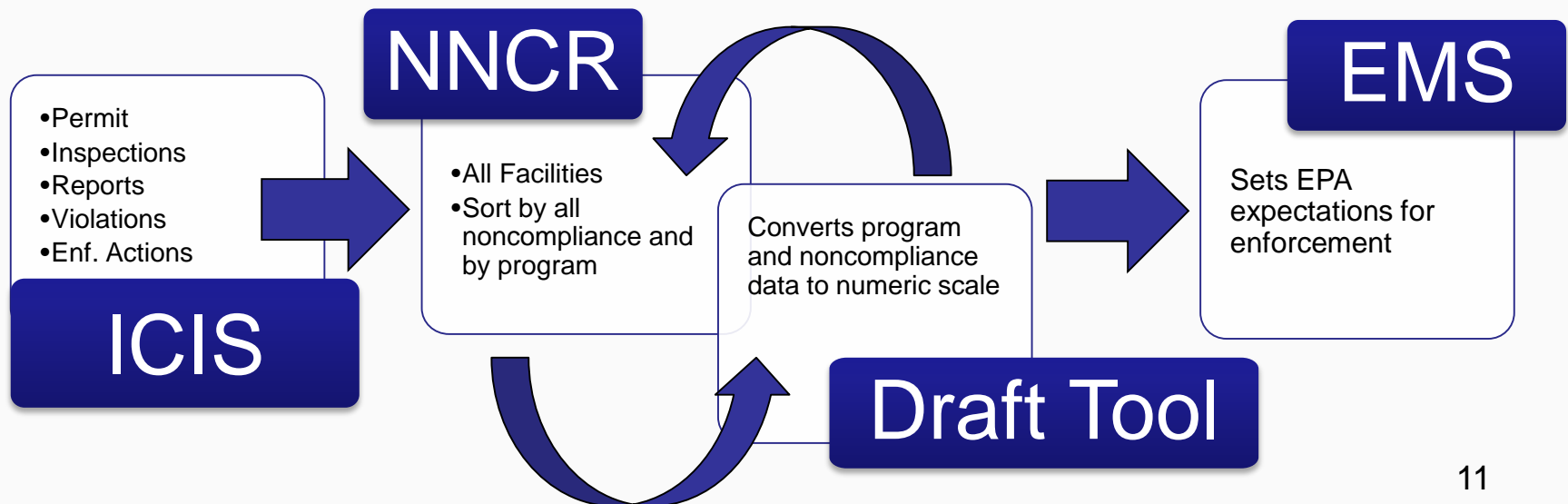
A screenshot of the EPA's NPDES eReporting public website. The page features the EPA logo at the top left, a navigation bar with "Environmental Topics", "Laws &amp; Regulations", and "About EPA", and a search bar. The main content area is titled "Compliance" and includes a sidebar with links to various programs like CAA, CERCLA, CWA, FIFRA, RCRA, SDWA, TSCA, and Good Laboratory Practices (GLP). The main content area is titled "NPDES eReporting" and features a large graphic with the text "CWA-NPDES electronic reporting". Below the graphic are tabs for "Overview", "Authorized NPDES Programs", "NPDES Permits and Other Regulated Entities", and "NPDES Help". The text below the tabs states: "EPA has published the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule, which will modernize Clean Water Act (CWA) reporting for municipalities, industries and other facilities. EPA signed the rule on September 24, 2015 and it was published in the Federal Register on October 22, 2015. The rule replaces most paper-based NPDES reporting requirements with electronic reporting." There is also a small image of a tablet displaying data.

# Overview of NNCR

Due 21 December 2021



- EPA HQ staff are working with EPA regional and state staff to develop the NPDES Noncompliance Report (NNCR) and a related project to develop a new draft tool to prioritize serious NPDES noncompliance.
- EPA will need to ensure that the NNCR has the data necessary to support any new noncompliance scoring/sorting tools developed.



# Resources for NPDES eRule Implementation



- EPA is providing a number of resources to help states implement the NPDES eRule. These resources include:
- Training and Outreach Resources:
  - NPDES eReporting website - <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/npdes-ereporting>
  - EPA NetDMR Support Portal - <https://netdmr.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>
  - EPA NeT Support Portal – <https://epanet.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>
  - ICIS Support Portal - <https://icis.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>
  - NPDES eRule News and Alerts (sign up on ICIS Support Portal)
  - NPDES eReporting Help Desk
- EPA-State Coordination
  - Sector specific technical workgroups
  - General permit technical workgroup
  - Monthly Meetings Between States and EPA
- EPA State Support Contract for Electronic Data Transfers (“Batch” States)
- Exchange Network Grant Program