



Overview of EPA Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Data



Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO)

<https://echo.epa.gov>

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Overview



- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides public access to its regulatory compliance and enforcement data via the Internet.
- The Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) website at <https://echo.epa.gov> integrates data from major EPA information systems for public use and program management.

The screenshot displays the ECHO website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Map Legend", "Basemap Options", and a search box labeled "Zoom To" with the placeholder text "Enter city, state, and/or zip code". A "Sync Map and Table" button is also visible. Below the navigation bar is a satellite map of the United States with numerous red location markers. To the right of the map is a "Facility Summary" panel. The panel has a purple header and a yellow "Current Search" dropdown menu. Below the dropdown, it states "240 Facilities Found". A "Criteria" section lists various search filters, each with a red 'X' icon indicating it is selected. The criteria include: Search Type: Water; Results View: Interactive Map; Permit Status: Effective; Expired; Administratively Continued; Pending; Retired; Permit Type: NPD - NPDES Individual Permit; NGP - NPDES Master General Permit; GPC - General Permit Covered Facility; UFT - Unpermitted Facility; Last Inspection: Not Within 5 year(s); Compliance Status: Significant/Category I Noncompliance; Quarters in Violation (3 years): 12 (All Quarters); and Inspection Type: Any On-Site Inspection.

Overview



- ECHO is EPA's public website that provides compliance information about regulated facilities.
 - How they are regulated (Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Safe Drinking Water Act)
 - When they were inspected
 - Whether violations of environmental regulations were found
 - Whether enforcement action was taken
- The site also provides dashboards with views of overall enforcement and compliance status trends and some bulk datasets for download.

Overview



- Compliance history for more than 800,000 EPA-regulated facilities
 - Three-year compliance status and five-year inspection and enforcement history
 - EPA and state, local, and tribal environmental agency data for:
 - Clean Air Act stationary sources
 - Clean Water Act dischargers
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste handlers
 - Safe Drinking Water Act public water systems
 - EPA inspection and enforcement action data for other statutes like EPCRA, FIFRA, and TSCA

ECHO Data Sources



- ECHO extracts data from other EPA data systems, typically on a weekly basis:
 - Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS)
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRAInfo)
 - Safe Drinking Water Information System (extracted quarterly)
 - Facility Registry System (links EPA-regulated facilities and permits under one ID number)
 - Envirofacts: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) pollutant release data for context
 - Full list with refresh dates on “About the Data” page (<https://echo.epa.gov/resources/echo-data/about-the-data>)

ECHO Features



- Facility-level data: click Explore Facilities for detailed search forms by media program, or click Create Maps to start with a map
- Water Pollutant Loading Tool: click Explore Facilities
- EPA Enforcement Case data: click Explore Facilities
- Trends data: click Analyze Trends for dashboards of aggregated compliance and enforcement activity data
- Bulk downloads: click Advanced Tools for data download files and web services
- ECHO Gov provides additional tools for EPA and state users (login required).

ECHO Facility Searches - Tips



- On home page, click “Explore Facilities”
- “View More Search Options” and “Expand All” show all available criteria on search forms
- Table of search results can be modified by clicking “Customize Columns”
- The data can be downloaded as an Excel file
- Adjust search criteria by clicking “Modify Search”
- Table of search results links to detailed reports
 - Detailed Facility Report: Integrated facility report (cross-statute)
 - Case Report: More information about EPA enforcement cases
 - Effluent Charts and Pollutant Report: Water pollutant discharge data
 - Air Pollutant Report

ECHO Help



- “Help” tile includes link to “ECHO Tutorials” (short videos)
- “Contact Us” link at top right of ECHO pages provides access to user support
- Site documentation
 - “Resources” tile on home page
 - “Help” buttons on all search pages and reports
- ECHO includes an online error correction process with a network of state and EPA data stewards who address data error reports.

Online Demonstration



[Online demonstration of EPA's ECHO]

The screenshot shows the ECHO (Enforcement and Compliance History Online) website interface. At the top left is the ECHO logo with a magnifying glass icon over the 'O', followed by the text "Enforcement and Compliance History Online". To the right are links for "ECHO Gov Login" and "Contact Us". The main content area is divided into several sections: a "Search Community" section with a house icon and a description of the site's purpose; a "Quick Search" section with a text input field for "Enter city, state and/or ZIP code" and a "Search" button; a "Watch Short Video Tutorial" link; and a "More Search Options" link. On the right side, there are three vertical buttons: "Create Maps" with a compass icon, "Analyze Trends" with a bar chart icon, and "Advanced Tools" with a wrench icon. At the bottom left, there is a "Latest News" section with a sub-header "ECHO News" and three news items: "What's New in ECHO", "ECHO Use Continues to Increase", and "Join the ECHO Listserv". At the bottom center, there are three buttons: "Help" with a question mark icon, "Resources" with an open book icon, and "Advanced Tools" with a wrench icon.