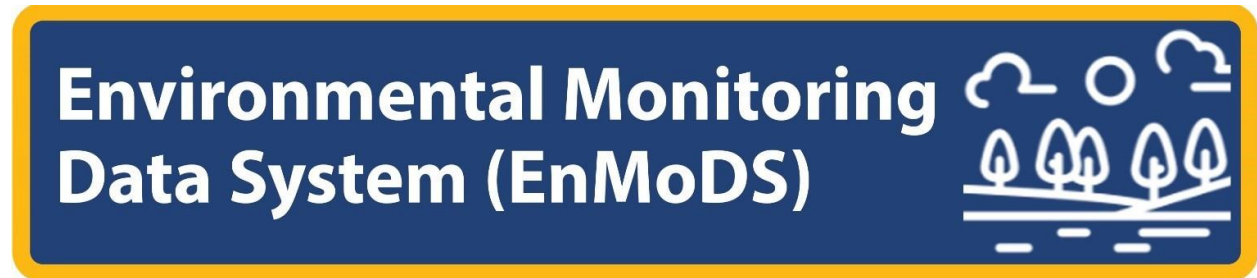


Subject: A Year in Review - Environmental Monitoring Data System



December 20, 2024

Hello everyone,

As 2024 comes to an end we want to share some updates on the upcoming replacement of the Environmental Monitoring System (EMS) with the Environmental Monitoring Data System (EnMoDS). We are excited to share that we anticipate launching EnMoDS in the spring of 2025, with the goal of providing a more integrated approach to managing provincial resources.

Progress to date

The EnMoDS solution: At this time last year, we signed the contract with Aquatic Informatics (AQI) and since then we've made steady progress. We have configured the EnMoDS solution and tested a substantial subset of our data against this new data structure.

Data Extraction and Migration: Having set up the data structure in the EnMoDS solution we are now working on extracting all the data from EMS (c.20 million records) and ensuring it fits the new model. This work is substantially complex, and we anticipate completing this in the new year.

Customized components: As you know, the EnMoDS solution has a few customized pieces such as web reporting, an electronic data transfer (EDT) import tool, and the chain of custody form (previously called a requisition form). The chain of custody (CoC) form has been tested and is awaiting the completion of other components to be finalized. We are continuing to iterate on the development of the EDT importer and are close to delivering this item for user acceptance testing. Upon delivery of the EDT, we will shift our focus to developing the web reporting component.

Next steps

System launch: In preparation for EnMoDS launch, we will continue to migrate EMS data to the EnMoDS solution and test it. We will also develop and test both the web reporting components and EDT. Adequate lead time to review documentation for the new EDT and testing will be given to current EMS data providers to make necessary changes prior to implementation. We will be publishing an EnMoDS EDT support web page in January to facilitate this transition and we will contact data providers once the page has been launched.

We have also set up a new support email address EnMoDSHelp@gov.bc.ca, which will be used following the launch. In the weeks prior to launch, training will be carried out and will include training on the custom-built pieces and the EnMoDS solution.

Collaboration: We will continue to liaise closely with our internal and external clients and subject matter experts to facilitate a more collaborative and multi-contributor approach to managing resources. We continue to communicate with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) who launched their own environmental monitoring system earlier this year, which was also developed by AQI. We will also continue to work with Environment and Climate Change Canada, as they prepare to launch their own discrete environmental monitoring database.

We sincerely appreciate your patience and commitment to this journey. We are confident that EnMoDS will allow for a more modern, reliable system that will support the management and publication of more accurate data.

I look forward to sharing another update with you towards the end of the fiscal year, prior to launch. If you have any questions, please contact me at Sonia.M.Fernandes@gov.bc.ca or project director Tarik Dessouki at Tarik.Dessouki@gov.bc.ca.

I wish you and yours a happy holiday season!

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