

**Future Illicit Discharge and Spill Reporting for Municipal Stormwater Permittees:
An Update on Ecology's Work and Plans for Reducing Redundancies**

May 19, 2016

Currently there are separate requirements for permittees to track and report illicit discharges for their annual reports and to report spills in a timely fashion to the Environmental Response Tracking System (ERTS). Learning experiences during this permit cycle and a planned ERTS overhaul provide an opportunity to improve the reporting system for both Ecology and for the permittees.

First it is important for permittees and other stakeholders to understand that the ERTS update is not a Water Quality Program project; it is an Ecology-wide project. While Water Quality Program staff are following the ERTS overhaul and can provide some input, the changes to ERTS will not be driven by the needs of the municipal stormwater permittees or permit managers.

So, the Water Quality Program's IT staff are scoping a project that would be completed in a parallel process to the ERTS overhaul in 2017. The idea is to make a form inside of the WQWebPortal that would require a SAW account (but not a signature account) to fill in. For events that trigger General Condition G3 the WQWebPortal form would automatically populate the required ERTS fields.

We have heard from permittees that they want a searchable database that allows neighboring jurisdictions to share information. We have also heard that many permittees want to be able to continue using their own databases which house additional data related to enforcement and other actions. And we need consistent reporting to allow us to learn from the results of the permittees' efforts. This summer the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program will complete the analysis of the data for 2014 submitted by permittees in March 2015; this report will include recommendations for fields that should be included in the new WQWebPortal form.

By fall of 2016, we need to finalize the fields for the WQWebPortal form and have some further discussions with permittees who use ERTS and their own databases in various ways. If you are interested in participating in this discussion, please contact Karen.Dinicola@ecy.wa.gov to be added to the distribution list for the doodle poll to set the meeting dates.