E-ENTERPRISE
for the Environment

Modernizing the business of environmental protection

PROJECT LEAD

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COMBINED AIR EMISSIONS REPORTING (CAER)

Streamlining air emissions reporting

CHALLENGE

Various federal, state, local, and tribal programs require industry to report air pollutant emissions to separate systems at different times of the year to meet requirements for the National Emissions Inventory (NEI), the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP), the Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI), and partner-specific systems. This leads to duplication of effort for both industry and government. While each program collects different data, shared data could be reported just once for use across multiple programs.

BENEFITS

Combined emissions reporting will reduce redundancy in reporting air emissions and associated facility data, as well as review time for EPA, state, local, and tribal (SLT) programs on data quality assurance and data reconciliation among programs.

- **Regulated Community:** CAER will decrease the reporting burden for facilities by reducing duplicative data entry across programs and improving both the reporting experience and efficiencies.
- **Public:** CAER will improve data availability, timeliness, transparency, consistency, and quality for users.
- **Regulators:** EPA, States, Tribes, and local governments will spend less time reviewing, compiling, and reconciling data, and the most timely and high-quality data will be available to decision makers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CAERS Version 5 deployed in February 2024 for the NEI 2023 reporting cycle and is being used by SLT programs in the District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Mississippi, and Pima, Arizona. More programs are scheduled to onboard next year and/or have requested test accounts to evaluate CAERS, giving them the opportunity to provide feedback on their specific needs to the CAERS development team.

Updates in CAERS include the ability for SLT users to retrieve data reported by their industry via the CAERS application programming interface (API) for use in their own tools for advanced quality assurance and other specific purposes.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Build additional CAERS functionality to refine the data that can be made available to TRI.
- Add specific data fields to sub-facility data in CAERS to allow users to identify which facility components report to specific rules, and thus begin harmonizing the Emissions Inventory System and CEDRI facility inventory.
- Explore additional use cases between CAERS and SLTs that may allow additional States to onboard in CAERS.
- New SLTs are always welcome to provide input for CAER continuous improvement by signing up for the CAER Product Design Team (PDT) or reaching out to the project contacts.