

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Combined Air Emissions Reporting (CAER) project seeks to streamline the way industry reports air emissions to meet EPA, state, local, and tribal program requirements.

The CAER System (CAERS) is an electronic reporting application that allows facilities to report to more than one program via a single data submission.

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 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 4 deployed in February 2023 for the NEI 2022 reporting cycle and is being used by state, local, and tribal programs in the District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Pima, Arizona, and 11 pilot facilities from the state of Arizona, with more programs scheduled to onboard next year.

Updates in CAERS include monthly fuel process reporting for Washington, DC, customized quality assurance checks for different state, local, and tribal programs, and a first step in the Agile process of using web services to automatically retrieve emission factors from WebFIRE. The team has also begun developing web services that will provide state, local, and tribal programs with automated access to their data from CAERS.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Onboard Mississippi to CAERS in 2024.
- Build additional CAERS functionality to meet new NEI program requirements and refine the data that can be made available to TRI.
- Establish data workflows with CEDRI and GHGRP.