



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 tool that allows facilities to report to more than one program via a single data submission.

PROJECT LEADS

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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. These systems include 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, some data (specifically, input data) is the same and could be reported just once for use across multiple programs.

Benefits

- **Regulated Community:** CAER will reduce the reporting burden for facilities by preventing duplicative efforts 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 decisions makers.

Accomplishments

CAER partnered with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and 12 of its regulated facilities to develop and pilot the “Common Emissions Form,” now known as the CAER System (CAERS). The Minimum Viable Product of CAERS was released in April 2020 and is currently being used by Georgia facilities to report National Emissions Inventory (NEI) 2019 inventory year emissions. Data reported there are also available for industry use in reporting air emissions to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). CAERS is the result of a truly collaborative effort between EPA, state members of the CAER Product Design Team, and Georgia DNR.

What's Next?

- Continue work with Georgia DNR in 2020 to enhance CAERS as state, local, and tribal partners prepare for an NEI triennial reporting year (2020).
- Build additional CAERS functionality in order to meet new NEI program requirements and to refine the data that can be made available to TRI.
- Onboard Washington, DC to CAERS in 2020 to enable industry to report 2020 inventory year emissions beginning in January 2021.
- Begin work with the Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface and the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.
- Onboard additional state, local, and tribal partners to work with EPA toward adoption of the common form. Many environmental programs have their own reporting systems, and for those interested, CAERS will focus on how best to integrate their systems.
- Develop several shared services to support CAER. These services will also be available as stand-alone products for use by state, local, and tribal partners not using CAERS.