



PROJECT SUMMARY

The State Planning Electronic Collaboration System is a user-friendly electronic system that replaces the traditional paper-based submission system and helps state and local air agencies and EPA plan, submit, and review air quality submissions more effectively.

PROJECT LEADS

Ron Evans

U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation
evans.ron@epa.gov
919-541-5488

Robert D. Bielawa

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
robert.bielawa@dec.ny.gov
518-402-8396

Denise Scott

U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation
SPeCS for Exceptional Events
scott.denise@epa.gov

Mia South

U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation
SPeCS for SIPs
south.mia@epa.gov

KEY CONTACTS

Kelly Poole

Environmental Council of the States
kpoole@ecos.org
202-266-4939

RESOURCES

[Online Tools & Resources](#)

STATE PLANNING ELECTRONIC COLLABORATION SYSTEM (SPeCS)

Facilitating access to State Implementation Plans (SIPs) throughout their life cycle.

Challenge

Under the Clean Air Act, state and local air agencies are responsible for developing and submitting to EPA State Implementation Plans (SIPs) that provide for attainment, maintenance, and enforcement of the national ambient air quality standards and protection of visibility in certain national parks and other areas. Such SIP submissions are frequently comprised of multiple documents containing tens or hundreds of pages. The goal of this project is to update paper and electronic reporting systems.

Benefits

The State Planning Electronic Collaboration System (SPeCS) provides the following benefits to state and local air agencies, tribes, EPA, and the public:

- More streamlined applications
- Cost savings
- Improved efficiencies across agencies
- Increased transparency through data availability
- Accountability of regulated entities and the government

Accomplishments

All 50 states now use SPeCS. To date, more than 757 state plans have been submitted through the system.

Additionally, three public tools have been recently completed and will soon be released:

- Nonattainment and Maintenance Area Population Tool
- Nonattainment and Maintenance Area Dashboard
- Required State Implementation Plan Elements Dashboard

What's Next?

Through the E-Enterprise SPeCS initiative, a group of EPA and state officials has designed and piloted, and is preparing to launch, a new module that will allow air agencies to submit exceptional event notifications and demonstrations through EPA's Central Data Exchange. The new module, planned for release in August 2020, will streamline the exceptional events submittal and review process and enable EPA to manage and track exceptional events like never before.

Other planned updates include:

- Continue system maintenance and other enhancements
- Upgrade the process for Regional Haze submissions
- Expand the current SPeCS system to enable additional types of air quality submissions
- Explore the possibility for the system to accommodate tribal submissions in the future