

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 LEADS

Marc Houyoux

U.S. EPA Office of Air Quality
Planning and Standards
houyoux.marc@epa.gov
919-541-3649

Todd Parfitt

Wyoming Department of Environmental
Quality
todd.parfitt@wyo.gov
307-777-7937

KEY CONTACTS

Julia Gamas

U.S. EPA Office of Air Quality Planning
and Standards
gamas.julia@epa.gov
919-541-7915

Tammy Manning

North Carolina Department of
Environmental Quality
tammy.manning@ncdenr.gov
919-707-8717

Stacy Knapp

Maine Department of Environmental
Protection
stacy.r.knapp@maine.gov
207-287-2235

COMBINED AIR EMISSIONS REPORTING (CAER)

Streamlining air emissions reporting.

Challenges

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 following programs: 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. In 2021, facilities will be able to use the CAER System (CAERS) to report inventory year 2020 data to support their state, local, tribal, NEI, and TRI reporting. This will benefit the following stakeholders:

- **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 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 CAERS. The first version of CAERS was released in April 2020 and was used for Georgia DNR’s 2019 NEI reporting cycle. Using CAERS, Georgia DNR was able to submit its point source NEI data one month earlier than in previous years.

CAERS Version 2 deployed in March 2021 for the NEI 2020 reporting cycle and is being used by more than 300 facility reporters in Georgia and by the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment, and the local authorities of Pima, Arizona, and Lincoln-Lancaster, Nebraska. Shared air toxics data reported there are also available for industry use in reporting air emissions to TRI.

CAERS is currently adding new partners and several state, local, and tribal agencies have CAERS test accounts to explore their needs as they consider onboarding with CAERS. Future work includes building out this new functionality with partners, as well as designing and building out shared data workflows with CEDRI and GHGRP.

What’s Next?

- 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.
- Work with partners from Arizona, Minnesota, Montana, and Rhode Island.
- Develop several shared services to support CAERS. These services will also be available as stand-alone products for use by state, local, and tribal partners not using CAERS.