Chat Log
Learn From Leaders: State Environmental Permit Dashboards
March 25, 2026

Beth Graves, ECOS Wed, 3:03 PM
You can read more about E-Enterprise for the Environment here - E-Enterprise for the Environment

Beth Graves, ECOS Wed, 3:07 PM (Edited)
The webinar will feature presentations from three state leaders:

- **Katrina Kessler** – Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency;

- **Mike Rolband** – Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; and

- **Sean Briggs** – Chief Technology Officer of the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services.

Beth Graves, ECOS Wed, 3:07 PM
Also joining the panel, Elyse Porter (Avanti Corporations) will share findings from her analysis of state environmental permitting dashboards nationwide, including emerging trends and concrete examples of how states are using dashboards to inform the public and build trust.

Brent Efron Wed, 3:16 PM
Is the Avanti/EPA study and findings published/publicly available?

MaryAnn Nason Wed, 3:21 PM
Great work Minnesota! What tool or platform does Minnesota use to collect the workflow data that is displayed on Tableau?
Also curious what AI tool Minnesota is using.

MaryAnn Nason Wed, 3:08 PM
Thank you! Will the slides be shared after the meeting?

Katrina Kessler Wed, 3:23 PM
Workflow data is in application called Tempo - shared with other states. The AI application

is built using Microsoft AI tools, but we developed the actual program that allows for our comment review - not just one tool.

MaryAnn Nason Wed, 3:26 PM
Thank you Katrina!

Beth Graves, ECOS Wed, 3:27 PM
SC DES used the term KPI which stands for "key performance indicator."

mike matsko Wed, 3:29 PM
Does anyone have advice on how to effectively present the number of days the applicant is holding up the schedule due to deficient information?

Brent Efron Wed, 3:29 PM (Edited)
The nonprofit I work for, the Environmental Policy Innovation Center has been supporting states with permitting digitalization efforts. Our team is made up of a mix of coders, designers, permitting practitioners, and former environmental regulators.

This includes everything from amplifying best practices through the publishing of brief case studies to providing pro bono staffing support in the building of these same dashboards and project management tools.

Please reach out if you are interested in connecting
Brent@PolicyInnovation.org

Beth Graves, ECOS Wed, 3:30 PM
@Mike Matsko, Virginia will show how they show applicant or their consultant expected time and actual time.

Brent Efron Wed, 3:30 PM (Edited)
Here is a case study we wrote based on a series of conversations with VA DEQ and Director Michael Rolband: https://www.policyinnovation.org/insights/permitting-modernization-in-virginia

Brent Efron Wed, 3:33 PM
Here is a link to our Permitting Webpage: https://www.policyinnovation.org/permitting/

Beth Graves, ECOS Wed, 3:39 PM (Edited)

Thank you Christoph Quasney for representing Virginia DEQ as Mike Rolband is unable to be with us today.

Beth Graves, ECOS Wed, 3:40 PM
Thank you Charles and Anna for being with us today from Avanti.
Attendees are encouraged to raise your hand or type a question or comment.

Megan Corrado Wed, 3:48 PM
WDNR has a barrier symbol on its permit timelines when a permit is waiting for information from the applicant. Additional information requested and additional information received dates are also tracked.

Jim Young Wed, 3:48 PM
Question: Do these systems mostly take completed applications in PDF format from the external user via an upload process and then track the PDF submittals in the system? Are some fully digital permit applications via web forms, where each field is entered digitally (as opposed to a completed PDF upload)?

Amanda Raddatz Wed, 3:49 PM
How do you handle incomplete applications? Interested in feedback on whether you wait to review until the application is complete? or if you will review some portions while additional information is being collected

Katherine England Wed, 3:49 PM (Edited)
Interested to hear how folks with multi-agency portals coordinated before building/launching the portal. How did you coordinate permit review timelines across agencies, align/reduce submission requirements (e.g., submitting a single set of permit plans, rather than various iterations to meet different agency requirements), and meet other business needs? How long did that planning and coordination process take? Did it require changes to regulations and/or statutes to make the new streamlined process possible?

Additionally, what role, if any, do pre-application meetings (or even earlier, meetings during the project planning stage) play in making multi-agency permitting portals work?

Does anyone use an "intake form" to gather project information that otherwise would be entered multiple times for each individual permit?

(Kate England, MassDEP)

DEEP 20BY26 Wed, 3:50 PM
This is Camille Fontanella from CT DEEP. Would Katrina, Sean, and Christoph be willing to share their emails for some specific follow up questions on your systems? Camille.Fontanella@ct.gov Thank you!

Loren Speer Wed, 3:50 PM (Edited)
What are the backend data systems being used for these dashboards?

Rachel Ganani, MPCA Chief of Staff Wed, 3:50 PM
You can email me: rachel.ganani@state.mn.us

MaryAnn Nason Wed, 3:50 PM
Kurt- I lowered my hand because the questions folks are asking in this chat are what I was going to ask so skip me and go to their questions

Todd Parfitt Wed, 3:51 PM
What are the costs to build these systems and what are the ongoing O&M costs.   Time to develop? Do you have legislative support?

Georgia Shuler Wed, 3:52 PM
What are the key team roles your states utilized for these changes? What is the size of the team? What was the overall timeline? Thank you!

Jess Byrne Wed, 3:48 PM
Were these dashboards created in-house or did any of you use contractors? Asking because we don't have internal IT capacity so are interested in seeing any RFPs that might exist.

Beth Graves, ECOS Wed, 3:54 PM
The E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform (EECIP) has a discussion forum for states, tribes, and federal agencies to post information and ask questions. For instance, in EECIP, you can see AI-enhanced retrieval platform and a Statement of Requirements from VADEQ to streamline the Virginia Water Protection Program permit review process. Go to www.eecip.net. Anyone with a .gov address is automatically accepted.

Kirk Haug Wed, 3:54 PM

Great presentations, especially answers to questions. Thank you, Kurt, Katrina, Elyse, Mike, Sean, and Beth!

Jim Young Wed, 3:53 PM
Do any of these systems also handle inspections and compliance after a permit application is approved and becomes a permit (e.g., DMRs for NPDES permits)?

Katrina Kessler Wed, 3:57 PM
Minnesota Business First Stop in MN (within our Dept of Employment and Economic Development) is developing an AI tool that gets to Julie's questions related to do I need a permit etc.
Re the cost question, Reporting piece is low cost - Took 1 FTE for 2 years after we standardized what was needed and definitions and ongoing we project .33FTE/year to support the improvements.

Christina Kellum Wed, 4:00 PM
Thank you so much, this was great!

mike matsko Wed, 4:00 PM
Great job everyone. The data standardization and standardizing workflow sounds like it makes this all possible.

Jessica Snyder Wed, 4:00 PM
Thank you!

Julie Halbert Wed, 4:01 PM
Thank you!!!

Jim Young Wed, 4:01 PM
Thanks !

Katrina Kessler Wed, 4:01 PM
But we made a much larger investment to move all permitting systems to a standard TEMPO platform.

Imran Hussain Wed, 4:01 PM
Thank you...this was very helpful

Christoph Quasney Wed, 4:01 PM
Anyone interested in a State Permitting Dashboard - VDEQ worked with FAI: FAI | State
Permitting Scorecard

Eric Fitzsimmons Wed, 4:01 PM
Thank you