

## Finding Compliance Information on the Web

By Paula Canter

U.S. EPA's **ECHO** (Enforcement and Compliance History Online) website allows you to search for compliance information about companies regulated by U.S. EPA. ECHO is maintained by U.S. EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA). The website displays multi-year individual facility historical compliance information for air, water and hazardous waste programs, as well as Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) data.

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The hazardous waste data comes from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRAInfo). RCRAInfo is a national database application that the states and U.S. EPA use to track regulated site information. Ohio EPA enters data received from notification of regulated waste activity forms; hazardous waste inspection reports; monitoring reports and enforcement actions; permitting actions; and closure and post-closure actions directly into RCRAInfo. OECA receives national data monthly to populate ECHO.

The main screen has a quick search to find facilities by zip code or address. You can also search by one of the options in the left sidebar, such as the hazardous waste search. In addition to the basic name, EPA ID or geographic location, the search function has numerous options to tailor your search including: inspection/enforcement history; compliance information; TRI chemical releases; and demographic profile. Carefully review the boxes checked by default, as they may limit the scope of your query.

The initial search results screen lists: the number of inspections (last five years); quarters in non-compliance (last three years); alleged current significant violations; informational enforcement actions/NOVs (last five years); formal enforcement actions (last five years); penalties (last five years); TRI releases to land; and percent minority population (three mile radius). From this screen, you can also view a facility map or compliance report that contains information for all the regulatory programs covered by ECHO.

We encourage you to review the information on the RCRAInfo or ECHO websites. If you identify potentially incorrect compliance information, click on *Report Error* at the top of the screen. Once the error is logged, U.S. EPA forwards the message to the appropriate state and federal data stewards for the organization that administers the program where the facility is located. It could take a month or more for the update to appear on ECHO.

If you have questions about the RCRA compliance history of a specific Ohio facility, contact Division of Hazardous Waste Management (DHWM) staff in the appropriate **Ohio EPA district office**. If you can't find information about a specific site, contact DHWM's Central Office Information Management staff at (614) - 2917.